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Daily Report

LAST ISSUE

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LAST ISSUE

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-157
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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-157 *13 August 1996*

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Aug

LD1308070896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0523 GMT 13 Aug 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 13 (Itar-Tass) — "Will the Nighttime Meeting of Lebed and Maskhadov Stop the Chechnya War?" asks the IZVESTIYA daily. Reviewer Valeriy Yakovlev addresses the top-secret setting, in which the meeting had been arranged and held.

"Even people closest to Maskhadov and Yandarboyev did not know a place and date of holding it, nor did representatives of security services in Daghestan know," Yakovlev says.

"Such a secrecy was justified by the fact that the conferees had enough reasons to be wary of diehards in both the opposition camp and on the federal side," he explains.

The TRUD daily says the result of Lebed's surprise visit to Chechnya will be a presidential decree to be signed within days.

Behind the decree is a settlement model drafted by Lebed. The model in particular offers a comprehensive state programme for handling the Chechnya crisis.

The military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA offers "to make up one's mind once and for all: with whom to sit at the negotiating-table in Chechnya".

"Aslan Maskhadov's appearing in the company of the Security Council secretary, the Russian president's national security aide seems to make him legitimate again," the writer says, adding that there is no doubt that Maskhadov will pursue interests of rebel "bandit formations".

IZVESTIYA's article "Why the War in Chechnya is not Called War?" addresses an overlooked dimension of the war, which is crimes of Russian soldiers against Chechnya's civilians.

Military courts are busy handing sentences to crime-tainted soldiers, who had come as protectors of civilian rights, the newspaper says.

TRUD comments on the Saturday parliamentary vote on Viktor Chernomyrdin's nomination for another term of premiership.

The 314 votes he reaped are "a real sensation", the comment says.

Two-thirds of the hard-line lower house of parliament gave a go-ahead to Chernomyrdin after "the most complex presidential election which has split Russia almost in half".

Chernomyrdin's nomination was against the background of "military ignominy in Groznyy", "economic collapse in the Maritime territory", "miners' strikes" and against what many see as "a looming financial and economic crisis".

The commentator says the overwhelming vote for Chernomyrdin is not only his merit but also coincidence of interests of many political forces at this stage of Russia's life.

The U.S.' Republican Party has met for a pre-election congress in San-Diego.

IZVESTIYA weighs Bill Clinton's Republican challenger Bob Dole, who in his 73rd year is "brisk, lively, a handsome and witty man..."

The author recalls the U.S.' election history which knows no re-elected left-handed president. Clinton, who signs papers with his left hand, is facing the job of challenging the omen.

CIS: Council of Defense Ministers To Meet in Moscow 14 Aug

LD1308102196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1002 GMT 13 Aug 96

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 13 (Itar-Tass) — A regular meeting of the Council of CIS defence ministers will be held at the Headquarters of coordination of CIS military cooperation on Wednesday.

As Itar-Tass learnt at the Headquarters' press centre, participants in the meeting are to exchange opinions on urgent problems of security in the European-Asian region and to discuss issues of further development of military cooperation between CIS countries, as well as the issues connected with the Filename of earlier adopted agreements in the military field.

During the meeting the sides are to sign a number of documents, including "On the stand of the Council of CIS defence ministers in connection with NATO' plans of eastward expansion" and "On the state of collective peace-making forces in Tajikistan."

The participants in the meeting will also consider the plan of formation of CIS security and main provisions of CIS air defence concept.

The previous meeting of the Council was held in Moscow on March 27 to discuss the creation and perfection of the CIS united air defence system.

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Russia: Yeltsin Appoints New Ambassador to North Korea

LD1208205596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1806 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued an edict today appointing Valeriy Denisov ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the Russian president's press office has told ITAR-TASS.

Denisov was given a diplomatic rank of an extraordinary and plenipotentiary envoy of first class.

Yeltsin also signed an edict today relieving Yuriy Fadeyev of his duties as Russian ambassador to North Korea in connection with his transfer to other work.

Russia: Moscow To Supply Arms to South Korea as Debt Repayment

LD1208161896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 12 Aug 96

[By Aleksandr Kopnov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, August 12 (Itar-Tass) — Russia is making preparations for a delivery of modern tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and missiles as part of its 1.47 billion U.S. dollar debt payments to South Korea left over from the former Soviet Union.

The South Korean Defence Ministry said the first shipment of arms will arrive by the end of August.

This is the first large arms deal between South Korea and Russia, a ministry spokesman said in Seoul on Monday.

The spokesman said 30 South Korean officers had been sent to Russia to learn how to operate the hardware. In addition, Moscow has promised to send specialists to South Korea to help service and maintain it.

After testing, the tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and missiles will be distributed among South Korean army units.

At the same time, the ministry spokesman declined to say whether South Korea is going to buy other Russian arms in the future as well.

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul also refrained from comments, saying that the deal is a matter of bilateral relations between South Korea and Moscow.

However, South Korean military sources noted that Russian arms supplies become a "sensitive issue" in relations between Seoul and Washington because the United States has been the sole supplier of arms to the South Korean army since the end of the 1950-1953 Korean war.

Experts do not rule out the possibility that the deal may open up prospects for long-term military cooperation between South Korea and Russia.

On the one hand, Russian arms supplies could help fight the North Korean army equipped completely with Soviet weapons should a conflict break out. On the other hand, in the event of unification of Pyongyang and Seoul, military ties with Russia would provide a reliable channel for acquiring spare parts for the Soviet military hardware in North Korea.

An agreement to deliver Russian arms to South Korea as part of its debt payments was reached by the two countries in July 1995 during the talks on the repayment of credits provided to the former Soviet Union by Seoul after the restoration of diplomatic relations in 1990.

The Russian state arms trading company Rosvooruzheniye declined to confirm or deny the deal.

Its representative told Itar-Tass in Moscow that usually such deals are not made public for the sake of concerned parties.

Russia: Moldova's Snegur Welcomes Yeltsin Reelection

AU1208151496 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, August 9 (INFOTAG) — "We supported and will support the course for democratic and economic reforms, which have parallel development in Russia and Moldova," declared President Mircea Snegur upon his arrival in Moscow.

"We are fully aware that the leader of the reforms by all means has to be a democrat-President. Russia does not have a greater democrat than President Boris Yeltsin. Therefore his candidature for the position of the head of the Russian state was definitely supported by Moldova," noted Snegur.

"We received with satisfaction and welcomed Boris Yeltsin's victory at the elections," said Snegur.

On Friday Moldovan President took part in the ceremony of inauguration of the President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin.

The spokesman of the Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma told INFOTAG that Mircea Snegur had a short meeting with the Ukrainian leader. The heads of the neighbouring states discussed economic relations

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between Moldova and Ukraine, in particular, Ukrainian coal supplies to Moldova.

Snegur also met the Ukrainian foreign minister. They discussed the Dniester conflict settlement, as well as the visit of the Dniester leader Igor Smirnov to Kiev. The visit planned for August 14-15.

On Friday night Mircea Snegur left Moscow for Chisinau.

Russia: Russian Nonparticipation in PFP Exercises Viewed

MM1308105996 Moscow PRAVDA PYAT in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 2

[FBIS Summary] Moscow PRAVDA PYAT in Russian 13 August carries on page 2 a 400-word article by Ivan Boltovskiy, headed "The Time Has Come to Help Friend Bill." Boltovskiy reports the commencement 12 August of military maneuvers under the NATO "Partnership for Peace" [PFP] program in North Carolina, involving servicemen from CIS countries among others; in the context of the U.S. presidential election campaign, Boltovskiy sees the exercises as a "military parade to mark the triumph of Washington's imperial policy." The article concludes:

"It is characteristic that Russia will not be taking part in this 'festival.' And probably not because its military transport aircraft are without kerosene. Most likely, Russia's new place in the 'new world order' has once again been pointed out to the Kremlin. The moratorium announced by NATO at the end of last year on the public discussion of the terms for the bloc's Eastward expansion has lost its point. B. Yeltsin has won the elections, he has donned the crown, and now the time has come to confront him with the fact that there is actually nothing to discuss any more.

"The official Kremlin is keeping its mouth tightly shut and making no comment at all on what appears to be bizarre behavior, to say the least, on the part of its CIS partners. There is nothing surprising about that. It is simply that it is now the Kremlin's turn to help 'friend Bill' in his presidential race. Two presidents — two of a kind."

Russia: Motives Behind U.S. Aid Questioned

MM1308113696 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA ("Business Tuesday" section) in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Sergey Avdeyev: "Agent 007 With the Power To Invest. Americans Gather Information About Russia's Military-Industrial Complex. Why?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yekaterinburg — The friendship between the two great powers — the United States and Russia, which is so painstakingly nurtured at the highest level, has almost shown signs of cracking. This happened in the Urals when, a couple of months ago, Sverdlovsk Oblast Governor Eduard Rossel irreverently told U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering: "Enough of coming here to gather intelligence information...."

The Yankees, astounded by this turn of events and despite the rampant shortage of funds in the Department [of State], started rushing the organization of a conference on entrepreneurship and conversion of defense industry enterprises in Yekaterinburg, which had been planned a long time ago. They paid for a trip to the Urals by about 100 entrepreneurs and U.S. Government representatives. The businessmen included senior personnel from the Coca-Cola, Ford, Caterpillar, and Johnson & Johnson companies. According to the Americans' logic, the level of the mission which was headed by U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce Barry Carter should have dispelled all doubts the Russians might have had regarding the seriousness of their intentions.

Ambassador Pickering flew into Yekaterinburg the day the conference opened. Embarrassed in a rather un-American way, he opened the conference together with Rossel, very touchingly shook his hand, and assured journalists that the disagreement had been settled and the conference itself was a confirmation of this....

Pickering, in his capacity as diplomat, was diplomatically applauded, but — in his capacity as an American — was not believed.

So, what did actually happen between the newly-found friends? As of today, investments by U.S. firms in Sverdlovsk Oblast's economy are minimal as a proportion of the total volume of Western investments. They stand at just over 7 percent. At the same time, companies from China, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea are most actively creating joint production ventures in the Urals, while British, Finnish, and Austrian firms are persistently invading our market. The way Ambassador Pickering sees it, the situation is not all that lamentable. Last year Sverdlovsk Oblast sold to the United States

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10 times more goods than it bought there. It sold goods worth $300 million and bought goods worth $30 million — in other words exports well and truly exceeded imports. What else do these Russians want?

The Russians do not need to sell raw materials and buy chewing gum. Industrial giants in the Urals — 70 percent of which are part of the old defense industry — wish to cooperate on an equal basis in the high technology sphere, to manufacture finished products, and to win stable long-term orders from the West.

The Americans have no objection. Let us look at your potential, they say, let us study the matter. You see, the way they do business is like this: Before investing their dollars anywhere, they want to find out where this "any" would lead. They set up an information center at their consulate general in Yekaterinburg. They brought in about 200 volunteer experts and started studying the situation.

A curious questionnaire was sent to plants in the Urals: Six blocks of questions covering all aspects of an enterprise's operations — existing capacities, raw material stocks, financial status, and so on. The SPK [precise expansion unknown] directors were horrified: This is secret information! "Why worry about it, if you are being converted?", was the answer. Generally speaking, the crafty Urals people started having their initial doubts: Could they be spies?

"No, we are not spies," I was told by a high-ranking U.S. diplomat who wished to remain anonymous. "Quite simply, our businessmen will be unable to work with you without this information. It is ridiculous: Your firm invites a U.S. expert to visit, and cannot even issue him a pass to get inside!"

This did really happen. The Avtomatika Science and Production Association, which makes rocket components, was unable to take a U.S. volunteer inside its shop. Ambassador Pickering himself had to appeal to Governor Rossel personally for assistance in this matter. It seems that nothing has happened so far.

"We have simply ceased to nurture any illusions about salutary injections of Western capital in our industry's conversion. Here is an example of foreign 'aid': For three years now the leadership of the Urals Electromechanical Plant has been negotiating with a foreign firm the joint production of picture tubes. Fruitless! Apparently this firm is simply eliminating our enterprise as competitor," Rossel said.

I asked a diplomat whom I know to comment on this situation. He immediately declared: This is not a U.S. firm! But this does not make it any easier for us. Some Austrians arrived at Nizhniy Tagil's Uralvagonzavod. For about a year now it has held inside its gates 300 finished T-72-S tanks — a whole army. Buy some, they said. We will think about it, the guests replied. And they left. All our guys could do was treat them to "one for the road." People in the know realize: These guests will not come back. After all, Austria's government contains a most active U.S. lobby. They can persuade anyone to buy anything in the States, as long as it is not Russian tanks.

According to estimates by Urals experts, each one of Japan's 10 leading firms invests $600,000 and more each year in other countries. Each one of the top 10 U.S. firms invests only $300,000. This is mainly risk capital or laundered money. Third parties are often used to bring back to Russia the money of former Russians — they simply do not known how and where to invest their funds. An ordinary American would rather invest his money in Bangladesh, and certainly not in the military industry. The four contracts that have been concluded so far by defense industry plants in the Urals (their total value does not exceed even $1 million) were signed by the Americans only because "they are intended to help the United States prevent the proliferation of mass destruction weapons." This is the opinion of Robert Guldin, a consultant from the corps of volunteer experts. He goes on to say: "Any aid is geared primarily to promoting U.S. national interests. If this helps the Russian people — wonderful, but this is not the main objective. The projects which will be accepted will be only those which are advantageous for U.S. interests."

Russia: Minister Welcomes Shevardnadze, Chibirov Meeting on Ossetia

LD1208181196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Aug 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by our diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 12 (Interfax) — First Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov speaking in Moscow said there were signs of positive dynamism in the peace process between Georgia and its breakaway region of South Ossetia after the signing of a confidence building memorandum this May.

However, Moscow is aware that there are forces who are trying to block the process, he told Interfax.

Pastukhov said that was the reason why Moscow was hailing the agreement on a meeting between Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and speaker of the South Ossetian parliament Ludwig Chibirov.

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On Chibirov's controversial interview to the Moscow-based NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of August 7, the Russian diplomat said he was confused and regretful about the speaker's statement causing a mixed response in Moscow and negative reaction in Tbilisi.

Pastukhov said he felt a bit awkward over Chibirov's words saying South Ossetians felt abandoned if not betrayed (by Russia — IF).

There could be no question of a sellout at a time when Russia's interference had helped stop the fighting and save Tskhinval from complete destruction, he said.

He said a Russian peacekeeping force sent to the region was admittedly the genuine guarantor of regional peace and that the peace memorandum the warring sides signed was largely due to Russian efforts.

Pastukhov said despite its own hardships, Russia was doing all it could for the post war reconstruction of South Ossetia, with many Ossetian refugees finding shelter in North Ossetia and elsewhere in Russia.

Pastukhov expressed disagreement with Chibirov's statement that the principle of self-determination was being artificially contrasted with that of territorial integrity as far as Ossetians were concerned.

Russia will always support the principle of territorial integrity of any state, Pastukhov said warning against attempts to contrast it to the principle of self-determination.

He said political wisdom lay in accepting the existing realities and not going into hollow rhetoric about a map-redrawing, but do everything possible to make the borders more transparent.

Pastukhov stressed that the scheduled Shevardnadze-Chibirov meeting was the right way of overhauling the heavy legacy of recent years and restoring friendly relations between the two sides.

Moscow believes it is necessary to refrain from any moves or statements which could obstruct the movement towards a comprehensive regional settlement, the Russian diplomat said.

Russia: Scope of Mineral Exploitation Agreements To Be Reduced

MM1208140796 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Anichkin: "Investments: Scope for Investors To Be Curtailed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of oil and gas fields in Russia which would be open for investment enjoying the preferential taxation system — the output-sharing agreement — will be significantly reduced by the time the Duma's fall session convenes.

IZVESTIYA was told by sources which participated in the early August session of the Moscow International Oil Club in London, the issue concerns a radical review of the law on the list of deposits to which the output-sharing rule extends. Instead of the list previously submitted to the Duma and containing 250 oil, gas, gold, and other deposits, the advocates of attracting investments in the mineral extracting sector will submit two lists — first and second tier.

The first-tier list will now include only 30-50 deposits. Foreign investors will be given an opportunity to participate in exploiting only about 4 percent of Russia's mineral deposit reserves. According to Aleksey Mikhaylov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Natural Resources and the Use of Nature, the total amount of investments which could be attracted to Russia following the new laws' adoption is estimated at $100 billion.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin To Work on Documents in Kremlin 13 Aug

LD1308091896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0858 GMT 13 Aug 96

[By Andrey Galkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 13 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will spend his working day in the Kremlin today, and he will focus on work with documents, the president's press secretary Sergey Medvedev told Itar-Tass.

Today Boris Yeltsin held a working meeting with head of his Administration Anatoliy Chubays to discuss current issues of the Administration's work.

According to Sergey Medvedev, the president is expected to sign a number of decrees on appointments in the Russian government during the day.

Russia: Inauguration Leaflet Highlights Yeltsin's 'Main Tasks'

MM1308133496 Moscow Leaflet Distributed at Presidential Inauguration in Russian 9 Aug 96

["Main Tasks Set in Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin's Action Program for 1996-2000" — leaflet title]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Freedom

Strengthening the interaction between institutions of power and society.

Developing local self-government.

Shaping a civilized multiparty system.

Supporting civic initiatives.

Freedom of worship.

Social Justice

Ratifying minimum social state guarantees for the population in the sphere of consumption, health care, education, and culture.

Ensuring state guarantees in the sphere of labor remuneration.

Moving to an hourly minimum wage as a social guarantee laid down in law.

Eradicating any unjustified pay differences between sectors and categories of workers.

Introducing benefits for those in need paid for out of the federal budget.

Restoring the value of the population's monetary savings from actual financial sources; protecting depositors.

Implementing a federal targeted program to promote employment.

Guaranteeing job placement and employment for young people, creating a network of services to promote their vocational orientation, and restoring a system of vocational training for young people.

Improving existing pensions legislation, introducing a three-level system of pension provision, and creating a reliable system of social welfare for citizens that takes account of their labor contribution and the change in the cost of living.

Creating a system of housing construction accessible to the majority of Russian citizens. Implementing the "Housing" long-term state program, actively implementing the "My Home" housing program, and developing mortgage lending.

Economic Prosperity

Bringing order to the economy, not least by ruling out the misuse of state funds and wage delays, protecting people's incomes from inflation, organizing a budget implementation mechanism, and building a new system for administering state-owned property.

Tax reform.

Strengthening tax discipline.

Cutting the budget deficit.

Concentrating budget funds on the most socially important and economically effective programs.

Bearing down on inflation.

Creating an effective system of state regulation of natural monopolies.

State support for the investment complex through lending on a repayable and commercial [platnyy] basis.

Improving the legislative base for foreign investment.

Developing small businesses, and targeted financial support for them.

Utilizing as of 1997 at least 40 percent of the budget of the State Fund for the Employment of the Population to create new jobs in the small business sphere.

Adopting the Russian Federation Land Code.

Support for the production of Russian-made foodstuffs and protection for the domestic market.

Reviving the Russian agrarian sector's export potential.

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Legal Order

Improving the effectiveness of the executive.

Adopting a Criminal Code and a Code of Criminal Procedure that meet modern requirements.

Strengthening the judiciary.

Updating the federal program for the fight against crime.

Creating a municipal police force.

Reviving subunits responsible for crime prevention.

Strengthening personal security subunits in all law enforcement organs.

Limiting the potential for official arbitrariness.

State Building

Building a new federal power hierarchy.

Completing the demarcation of powers between the central and regional authorities.

Implementing federal regional development programs.

Nationalities Policy

Reviving the Russian nation.

Adopting state programs to promote the development of the cultures of all of Russia's peoples.

Assisting Russian fellow-countrymen abroad.

Relying on enlightened Russian patriotism.

Foreign Policy Interests

Achieving the maximum possible integration among CIS countries.

Building relations with partners in East and West on the basis of equal rights and the upholding of legitimate Russian interests.

Russia's further progress toward modern standards in the sphere of human rights and the fulfillment of the commitments stemming from our membership of the Council of Europe.

Defense

Maintaining the nuclear deterrent at the proper level.

Enhancing the effectiveness of the leadership of the Armed Forces.

Improving the technical provision of the Army and Navy, increasing the funds available for defense research and development.

Moving to military service under contract.

Ensuring measures of social protection for servicemen. Service in "hot spots" under contract.

Ensuring the stable funding of conversion programs.

Main Avenues of the President's Work:

Establishing civic peace and harmony in Russia;

Improving living standards on the basis of economic growth;

Protecting the family, motherhood, and childhood, and developing health care;

Developing culture, education, and science;

Legal reform and the improvement of the institutions of power;

Fighting crime and corruption;

Establishing peace and constitutional order in Chechnya;

Reforming the Armed Forces;

Integration with our CIS partners;

Upholding Russian interests abroad.

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Instructions on Administration Changes

LD1308123396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1146 GMT 13 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin signed a number of instructions relating to cadre changes in the presidential administration today, after a meeting with Anatoliy Chubays, the head of his administration. Sergey Medvedev, who was the head of state's press secretary until today, told journalists this. In particular, Sergey Samoylov was appointed head of the administration's territorial management, Vyacheslav Romanov was appointed the presidential administration's personnel manager, and Andrey Loginov was appointed head of the administration's management in charge of cooperation with political parties, public associations, factions, and deputies of Russia's Federal Assembly.

Sergey Medvedev said that a package of documents relating to changes in the structure of the presidential administration was signed by the president as well. "Today one can consider the key appointments in the renewal of the presidential administration as having been made and that the foundation for its new structure has been laid," Sergey Medvedev noted.

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Russia: Yeltsin Names New Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy

LD1308114996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1123 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, August 13 (Interfax) — President Boris Yeltsin today appointed Sergey Yastrzhembskiy his press secretary. Before this appointment, Yastrzhembskiy was Russia's ambassador to Slovakia and before that led the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information Department.

Former presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev asked Boris Yeltsin to allow him to retire from state service and take up his former job at ORT Russian Public Television.

According to head of presidential administration Anatoliy Chubays, Yeltsin has met Medvedev's request and has thanked him for his work as press secretary.

ORT's deputy general director Kirill Ignatyev has told Interfax that the decision on how best Medvedev could be employed will be adopted by the ORT board of directors by the end of this month by taking Medvedev's personal wishes into account.

"I can say with a high degree of probability that this will be work on the air in prime time rather than an administrative job."

Ignatyev revealed, adding that before his appointment as presidential spokesman on March 14, 1995, he had been an anchorman on the Vremya news and views TV program.

Russia: Yeltsin's Press Secretary Resigns, Asks To Return to ORT

LD1308110496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1036 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 13 (Interfax) — Russian presidential Chief of Staff Anatoliy Chubays told Interfax Tuesday that President Boris Yeltsin's Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev had asked Yeltsin to allow him to return back to Russian Public Television (ORT).

"Boris Yeltsin fulfilled Medvedev's request and thanked him for his efficient work as his press secretary," said Chubays.

Medvedev will hold a high post at ORT, where he had worked prior to his appointment to the post of the president's press secretary.

Russia: Press Secretary Medvedev's Future Questioned

MM1308094596 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 2

[Article by Nikolay Dolgopolov: "Portfolio Distribution Without Weekend Break"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kremlin's reconstruction has been completed, and the cadre restructuring is at its height. A.B. Chubays, Yeltsin's new chief of staff, has been given a completely free hand for a purge ("cleansing?").

On Sunday [11 August], following the inauguration on Friday [9 August] and the premier's confirmation and the "Chechen" mourning on Saturday [10 August], the big three got down to work. You need only one guess about the identity of the third person, who now ranks equal with Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin. Yes indeed, Anatoliy Borisovich [Chubays] himself.

And so, the new government's composition was discussed and virtually confirmed Sunday. The Chechnya question was examined. Finally, top-level cadre reshuffles were agreed. The meeting, which was scheduled to last one and a half hours, went on for almost three hours.

And, following the way things have been going recently, the conversation ended by "boosting" Chubays. The president confirmed that his chief of staff will be exercising the broadest powers in the delicate matter of selecting and placing cadres. Judging by everything, Chubays will continue the selection process and will be choosing his subordinates by giving preference to Leningraders-Peterburgers whom he knows well and who have already settled down in nearby offices.

The extent of his powers is also indicated by the fact that Anatoliy Borisovich has been entrusted with the power to autonomously choose aides and advisers for the president himself. Even the sophisticated Kremlin courtier Viktor Ilyushin, who actually was Yeltsin's first aide, never exercised such powers.... Chubays is putting together an extremely cohesive and personally loyal team — this is how his actions are described within the presidential staff itself. Outsiders are quickly ending up not just in the Kremlin's yard but even further away.

A reshuffle is certainly needed. You can still see in the Kremlin people who used to work in Brezhnev's Central Committee and in Kosygin's Council of Ministers. Even some of the younger ones find it difficult to keep up with the changes. Others are simply not skilled enough. Incidentally, salaries in the presidential staff are not all that high. Even taking the 70-percent bonus into

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account, sector and section chief just about make 2 million. Many simply refuse to serve in an atmosphere of stress and tension, when literally anyone could find himself on the brink of dismissal at any moment. Past services are not taken into consideration.

Now there is a sword hanging above Sergey Medvedev's head. He took over the troublesome office of Yeltsin's press secretary about a year and a half ago, when Boris Nikolayevich's ratings were dismally fluctuating between the lamentable levels of 6-10 percent. Considerable efforts, including by Sergey Konstantinovich [Medvedev] himself, were needed to get Yeltsin to wake up, to start talking, and even to start dancing — briefly, he acquired a new winning image. Mass media leaders recall quite a few confidential conversations with the press secretary which he organized just before the elections. Their essence is easily understood: Give your support, give your help, because there is no alternative to the president. And they helped, they supported, at times even going against their own feelings and losing readers. Medvedev did not simply speak for the president, who occasionally lost his voice. The news conference anchorman somehow imperceptibly became a political figure. Many people, familiar with the ins and outs of the Kremlin, can confirm: This figure was not committed. He was not a member of any financial-political groupings, he did not support any of the clans struggling to get close to B.N. If he felt loyalty for anyone, it was actually for the president and — something rare in contemporary practice — for journalists.

Could it be that this independence was not quite to the liking of the crowd that is now especially close to B.N.? Medvedev does not belong to any particular team. Does this fit in with the new chief of staff's ideas? We will soon find out. In a few days' time Boris Nikolayevich will be going on vacation — it is assumed that he will spend two or three weeks at Lake Valday. He will rest, he will try to recuperate. Chubays, who is somewhat tired, should be starting his vacation 15 August. The situation should be clarified by then.

Russia: Chernomyrdin To Introduce Duty on Hard Currency Imports

LD1308092596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0822 GMT 13 Aug 96

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 August (ITAR-TASS) — The government intends to introduce a duty on hard currency imports into Russia, Viktor Chernomyrdin said today at a sitting of the collegium of the State Tax Service.

The prime minister listed cuts in tax exemptions and the introduction of a tax on the use of cash for purposes unrelated to the payment of pensions and wages as other ways of supplementing budget revenue.

Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the main task up until the end of 1996 was to "normalize implementation of the budget". According to his figures, over the first six months of this year the revenue side of the budget was 88 per cent implemented and the expenditure side almost 100 per cent. At the same time, the federal budget deficit was 63 trillion roubles, or 70 per cent of its annual limit.

Russia: Lebed Hails Chernomyrdin's Confirmation as Premier

LD1208142796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 12 (Interfax) — The Russian Duma's decision on Saturday to reconfirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister is "extremely important and far sighted," Secretary of the Russian Security Council Aleksandr Lebed told a news conference in Moscow on Monday.

"I welcome Viktor Chernomyrdin back in the post," Lebed said. Speaking about the urgent tasks of the state for the coming period, Lebed said that "it is necessary to create an efficient system of state government.

Russia: Duma's Vote on Chernomyrdin Premiership Analyzed

MM1308112996 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Doctor of Political Sciences and State Duma Deputy Vladimir Lysenko under the general heading "The Same Old Premier. Like Many of the Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The Opposition

On the whole the opposition, despite the merciless criticism of the government, secretly voted for V. Chernomyrdin. The exceptions were S. Baburin and a number of orthodox members of the Communist Party, the Agrarian Party, and People's Power, who were unable to waive their principles. As G. Zyuganov subsequently commented on the result of the vote, those opposition deputies who voted against V. Chernomyrdin came from districts which voted against B. Yeltsin in the election (as, consequently, did Gennadiy Andreyevich himself as a native of the Orel region).

Having lost the presidential election and said nothing about it, it was logical that the opposition would not

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break any lances over the premier. Especially since according to the Russian Federation Constitution (article 111) the Duma's rejection of the premier is the only legal means for the president to dissolve the lower chamber of parliament in its first year. The Duma is now the political and organizational center of the opposition. The opposition, which holds the majority in it, has recently placed its people in virtually all the leading posts in the apparatus. That is why the dissolution of the Duma with the uncertain prospects of new elections is a greater threat to the opposition than V. Chernomyrdin's retention of his post.

Furthermore, by keeping V. Chernomyrdin at the head of the government the Communists still have an easy target for criticism of the current policy which apart from Yeltsin has been connected in the past three years with the name of Chernomyrdin.

Within B. Yeltsin's team Viktor Stepanovich is surely the man most considerate toward the opposition. A product of the directors' lobby he is perfectly predictable and, some believe, you can go to him for a soft loan for your electoral district if you need one and you will get it. He is no Gaydar or Chubays, the "reform fanatics."

It is perfectly possible to get your people into the Chernomyrdin government on a personal basis (that way the Communist Party of the Russian Federation does not bear responsibility for the government's policy).

The Loyal Opposition

Recently the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] has been firmly supporting B. Yeltsin. Admittedly, the Liberal Democrats asked for a good portfolio for Zhirinovskiy in exchange for the approval of the premier and possibly something else besides. But it seems that there is no post in the Russian Government which would match the ambitions and talents of the LDPR leader.

The Disloyal Opposition

The disloyal opposition in the form of Yabloko tried to obstruct the appointment of the premier by demanding the mandatory appearance in the Duma of the Russian president himself. But this step, proposed by the indefatigable K. Mizulina, caused indignation even among the real opposition where the vast majority of the other factions voted solidly for the president to continue his recuperation.

G. Yavlinskiy himself did not even attend the historic State Duma session — he is still recovering from the personal shock of the presidential election result.

Support Group

The undisputed leader here is Russia Is Our Home [NDR] which unconditionally supported the party's leader for the post of premier. Faction leader V. Belyayev in his speech almost went too far and did V. Chernomyrdin a disservice by stubbornly emphasizing "our victory," "our premier," and "the majority of the people are for us." It is just as well that there was uproar in the hall during his speech and far from everyone heard his words.

The Russian Regions deputies' group also voted "for" but with rigid conditions for the new premier: an immediate end to the war in Chechnya, attention to the regions, and a change of financial and economic policy...

It is interesting that despite fierce pressure from S. Baburin at a session of the People's Power deputies' group (Baburin is waging a determined struggle with G. Zyuganov for the leadership of the People's Patriotic Movement), V. Chernomyrdin's candidacy was supported by N. Ryzhkov. A case of one economic manager supporting another, as they say....

I believe that this idyllic state between the legislature and the executive will last until fall. After the parliamentary recess there will be the traditional political aggravation that inevitably begins in fall. The gubernatorial elections in almost half the federation components, "hopeless" Chechnya, and the economic difficulties will divide the deputies into different sides again. I only hope that these are exclusively different sides of the parliamentary rostrum.

Russia: Lebed Promises Action Over Situation in Chechnya

LD1208214696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Aug 96

[Video report on Chairman of Security Council Aleksandr Lebed news conference by correspondent R. Babayan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Summary] Standing on a bridge in Moscow with the Kremlin in the background, correspondent R. Babayan reports that, after his return from Chechnya, Aleksandr Lebed said that he saw no need for a state of emergency in Chechnya or Groznyy. He added that General Pulikovskiy was currently discussing with Aslan Maskhadov how to arrange a 1-km-wide buffer zone between the warring sides.

The scene then switches to Lebed's news conference today. After recalling that Lebed's car had twice come under fire in Chechnya, Babayan made the point that Lebed's impressions had been spoilt even earlier. Lebed

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said: "Yesterday evening [11 August] I started my trip and at a quarter past six I finished my evening stroll round Chechnya. I had anticipated that things were not going brilliantly there. I knew that but I had not thought that things were so bad.

"I intend to present all the conclusions to the Security Council session. And there is one main conclusion here. Today there is a most acute need to embark on the development of the armed forces and other power structures. Because the weaklings standing at the roadblocks, hungry, lice-infested, and under-dressed, or dressed in jumpers, makeshift jackets, sweaters, shawls, some kind of boots of strange shape and purpose — they cannot represent the ministry of internal affairs; they cannot represent the ministry of defense. I have the very strong impression that the partisans were somewhat better dressed during the Great Patriotic War."

Babayan adds that Lebed said that the chiefs in the rear echelons of the armed forces would be replaced during the next few days. He says that the secretary of the Security Council intends to act in the same way as regards the chiefs of the press services of the power departments. They are not providing journalists with the necessary information, whereas Ichkeria's minister of the press, Movladi Udugov, broadcasts regularly and explains the fighters' actions in a justificatory vein.

As Lebed put it: "Five out of five to Udugov for his work. He really does work. And then they all accuse you," he says to the journalists present, "of depicting the actions of the power structures in the wrong key, in the wrong way. But how are you to depict them if there's no information? Zero! Pass! They've all switched off their phones. They cannot be reached. They have buttoned their lips."

Lebed went on to say that the federal forces had to be withdrawn from Chechnya: "It is simply pathetic to keep the boys there as cannon fodder. Probably they were just put there as cannon fodder until it might occur to someone to get hold of a few assault rifles. They can be got hold of without any particular problems. They are indifferent, tired people."

Babayan then reports Lebed as saying: "To resolve the Chechen crisis, an effective state administration system has to be set up. The Security Council has to be the first component of this structure. It will consider the situation in Chechnya every week, while the leadership of the power-wielding departments will be undertaken by the general staff." He says that all these innovations will be given the seal of approval in a forthcoming presidential decree.

Lebed says: "The Security Council will then become engaged in the whole complex of problems involved in reaching a settlement in Chechnya, including the negotiating process and military, economic, and social problems. The need to set up a staff of this kind is explained by the fact that the current State Commission for a Settlement in Chechnya has not accomplished its own assignments."

Whatever th outcome of his talks with Maskhadov, Lebed thinks that the war may go on for some time at a low level thanks to an uncontrollable, disaffected minority. But Lebed and Maskhadov agree that the combatants have to be separated and Gen. Pulikovskiy was now dealing with this matter.

Lebed says: "I drew him the real picture, the real state of affairs. Incidentally, I did not encounter the slightest resistance. Everyone recognizes that Russia can get by without Chechnya but Chechnya cannot get by without Russia. The question is one of an accord. The question is one of status. In principle, the status that Tatarstan has today is quite acceptable. And the main question is how to stop the murder of people on both sides."

Babayan reports Lebed's comment on his appointment as the president's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic, which he describes as the result of power games.

Lebed says: "I am not against such an appointment. I am against the way in which the decision was arranged. Someone very much wants me to get my neck wrung in this assignment. But we will sort things out. I like assignments with a high difficulty rating."

Lebed is not very complimentary about the structure which he inherited from Oleg Lobov, his predecessor, saying: "The deputy from whom I inherited should have been in Groznyy. According to my information, he is now arriving in Cyprus. He saw fit to take a holiday."

Russia: Lebed Move in Chechnya Dismissed as Kremlin Infighting

MM1308111796 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 1

[Article by Zhanna Kasyanenko: "Russia-Wide Mourning for Casualties of Chechen War Could Become Constant.... Will We Pay Any Price?!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Lebed's naive plan to convene a hypothetical congress of the Chechen people will scarcely bear any real fruit. What can it decide? To end the war through Russia's withdrawal from Chechnya, which will naturally suit the delegates to the congress? But that would not suit

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Moscow. But if the opposite decision is adopted, where are Lebed's guarantees that the warring section of the Chechen people will obey the decisions of such a congress?

At the moment no one knows what Lebed was talking about for three hours with Aslan Maskhadov. There are no obvious results from the talks. In general the general's sudden flight to Dagestan and his sortie to a meeting with Maskhadov in Staryye Atagi look like an attempt to demonstrate his own heroism, particularly since the shots fired at his car were very opportune, as if to order. How can Chernomyrdin, who does not step out of Moscow, compare with the dashing, battle-hardened general!

But after all, in actual fact the differences between these two Kremlin inhabitants cannot fail to harm the cause. How can the Army operate in a situation whereby Chernomyrdin states at a sitting of the government commission on Chechnya that extra troops must be sent to the republic before peace talks are begun, while Lebed believes that the immediate discontinuing of combat actions and the withdrawal of the Chechen resistance detachments from Groznyy (they really listened to Lebed!) must serve as the basis for continuing the talks. The most terrible thing is that the "squabbling around the throne" is going on at all levels. But what about the interests of the state here, what about the lives of hundreds of officers and men! BBC observer Stephen Dalziel notes: "The rivalry between the ministers of defense and internal affairs is playing a very big role here. When the Chechens started attacking, the Ministry of Defense troops stood around Groznyy not doing anything for nearly a day and a half. This is not just incompetence. Clearly it suited someone in the Russian Army to show how unprepared the Ministry of Internal Affairs troops were.... We can see that there are differences of opinion between Chernomyrdin and Lebed. Since the moment he became secretary of the Security Council, he has never concealed that he would like to be vice president. Right away there was cause for a fight between Chernomyrdin and Lebed."

So what is Russia fighting for, and against whom? In the name of whose interests has the boy in the green beret been left with no legs? Is the question of who will win in the Kremlin — Chernomyrdin, Lebed, or Chubays — worth our lives, our country? After all, that is the price that has been set.

Russia: Paper Sees Political 'Treachery' Behind Chechen War

MM1208145596 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 2

[Commentary by Aleksandr Khokhlov under the general heading "Fighters Went Into Attack in Silence....": "Our Commentary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One factor is to blame for the whole current bloodbath in Groznyy. As, incidentally, it is to blame for all the previous ones. It has been talked about for a long time now. Openly in the trenches near Shatoy and at fortified checkpoints in Gudermes. And in hushed and indistinct tones throughout Russia. Now the politicians have come out with it. The democrat Shokhin and the Communist Zyuganov have given one and the same assessment. There is treachery in the state of Russia.

It is not the "brutalized bandits" who are shooting the young internal and airborne troops in the back — it is the corrupt swine leading the country's state apparatus who are killing them.

During the whole of the Chechen war the authorities have been unable to explain to the people and Army why soldiers are dying in the Caucasus. In the last one and a half years no attempt has even been made to channel the power departments' efforts in a single direction. Army soldiers, policemen, internal troops, and FSB [Federal Intelligence Service] officers have been poured into Chechnya together with generals and colonels. Each man has his own task. There is no common task. At one moment the Army is being thrashed in the mountains while the internal troops are held in reserve. At another the Siberian special-purpose police detachments are raking the cities with gunfire while the infantry and paratroopers are held in reserve. Cooperation exists at the level of the majors who participate in the attacks. But not at the level of the generals who send men into battle. The generals wait for orders from the politicians. But there are no orders.

There are many authorities. There is no single will of the kind Yermolov and Zhukov had. There is only impotence.

Many people in Chechnya disliked Dudayev. But nothing was done to make these people our friends. Their homes have been bombarded with missiles and pounded by rockets from multiple rocket launchers. The Chechens have taken up arms and are not fighting against Russia but taking revenge for their destroyed homes and dead relatives.

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The Chechens have arms and a purpose for fighting. The federal forces also have arms but they have nothing to die for.

Soldiers are killed on the basis of Chechen propagandist Movladi Udugov's commentaries. He is doing good work. Compared to him, the Russian ideological machine is a powerful bunch of idiots. All kinds of variations on Grachev's famous phrase about people dying with a smile on their lips are repeated to us. We are already becoming nauseated by the lies.

Is this what was planned and calculated to happen? Is this one of the links in the chain of treachery?

The Chechen war is surrounded by innuendo. About the losses. Its aims. And, most important, about money.

Around 1.5 trillion rubles have already been spent on the "Chechen economy's revival." No sooner has it "recovered" than there is a raid by the "intransigent" rebels. The Russian authorities transfer billion after billion to Chechnya with the enviable stubbornness of fools who are building castles in the air. Maybe this money is being divided in a fraternal manner between Moscow and Vedeno?

What is happening to the Chechen oil? It continues to be extracted in spite of both the Chechen war and the ruin. Oil is being punctually shipped via Novorossiysk's terminals to the East and West. But into whose pockets is the money going?

The current war in Chechnya is being conducted to the quiet rustle of bankers' payments. But in Chechnya itself people are simply being killed.

The president is at his inauguration. Lebed is in security. A defense council has also been created. There are masses of so-an-so's around with criminal mugs and butts made flabby by soft seats. They are all on the job. But there is no power.

How many funerals will there now be around the Russian villages? In the bloody street battles new human meat is being ground all the time into a filling for the "layer cake" that is Groznyy.

Our best people are being wiped out — enlisted men, officers, and policemen. And the final bulwark of the state — young people, the country's future.

Russia: Zyuganov Requested To Remove 'Communist' From Party's Name

LD1208121796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Aug 12 (INTERFAX) — The leader of the Russian Communist Workers' Party (RKRP), Viktor Tyulkin, has asked the Communist Party Central Committee and its chairman, Gennadiy Zyuganov, to drop the word "communist" from the name of the party in order "not to discredit the theory and deceive the working people."

In an open letter to the Communist Party leadership, Tyulkin said his move was prompted by the "latest actions" of the Communist Party, including when its faction in the Duma "surrendered positions" by confirming the appointment of "Yeltsin's close ally Viktor Chernomyrdin" as prime minister.

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX on Monday, Tyulkin explained that his party "will withdraw all the questions it has for Zyuganov if the Communist Party, which has been incessantly reproaching those who remain true to Marxism-Leninism for being a century behind, removes the word 'communist' from its name as no longer proper."

Tyulkin described the establishment, at the Communist Party's initiative, of the Popular Patriotic Union of Russia as "an attempt to create a two-party monopoly of power in the country by the party of power and Zyuganov's party."

Speaking about the removal of former RKRP Moscow Committee leader Viktor Anpilov, also leader of the hardline Working Russia movement, and his replacement with Professor of Economics Aleksey Sergeyev, Tyulkin blamed Anpilov for "his obvious and unconditional support for Zyuganov."

Russia: Zhirinovskiy Urges 'Modern' Policies

MM1208140296 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 3

[Article by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy under the "Opinions" rubric: "New Songs on the Main Theme, or Long-Distance Conversation on Security With the 'Zorro of the Kremlin'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The election epic has ended. They have had their fill of singing, dancing, making promises, swinging to and fro on swings, and making threats. What next? It is gratifying, of course, that my entire 1991 election program was filched, piece by piece, by the 1996 presidential candidates. Now everyone is for a unified, indivisible Russia, everyone feels sorry for Russians abroad, everyone is for order and a strong army, everyone has started raising the nationalities question. Good luck to them. After all, my baggage (I am talking about the ideological kind) is not my personal property, it is an asset belonging to the whole people. And it is actually a very healthy thing that on many questions we have arrived at a national view. That is an achievement in itself. But all the same,

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we are lagging behind life, lagging behind chronically. If we had understood and fallen in love with the idea of a unified and indivisible country back in 1991, we would be living in a different country by now. In 1996 we are once again falling behind ideologically.

What do I have in mind? First and foremost we must make up our minds: What is the state, in present-day conditions, and what is the Russian state right now? Life is changing rapidly, every day, every hour. In the past 10 years we have entered a single world information area in which a Russian vice premier learns of his own resignation from CNN TV, while the news of Madonna's pregnancy wings its way to every village five minutes after the doctor has confirmed the pregnancy. We are living in the era of the formation of a single cybernetic area in which the entire sum of human knowledge can be called up on a computer screen. We are living in times of entirely new transport opportunities, when it is a realistic possibility to have breakfast in Moscow and lunch in Paris. Finally, our **world** is a world of global weapons capable of burning up all living things in a matter of minutes. Yet we are still quoting [early 20th century philosophers] Berdyayev and Ilin and remembering Lenin and Stalin. Iosif Stalin built his super-business, known as the USSR, in specific historical conditions. Stalin wanted to preserve the country, he sensed the military threat. So he needed cheap tanks and aircraft, and in order to make them he needed metals and machine tools, and that meant heavy industry. You can only build heavy industry in a short space of time if you have rigorous centralization and cheap labor. The cheapest labor is **in camps**. Simple, but iron, logic. Stalin was proved right. If he had encountered the Germans in a peasant country with its indigenous military industry, Russia would have ceased to exist as a state, and the Russians would have become slaves. But this was the pre-nuclear era, when the country had to be transformed into a fortress simply in order to survive (and it was such a huge country!). But in the nuclear age, the conditions are entirely different. Nobody will venture on an armed invasion of a nuclear state. So what is the point of rigorous centralization, a fortress state, or cheap camp labor? Between the mid-fifties and the mid-eighties, although we were now living in the era of ballistic missiles, we were acting and thinking Stalin-fashion, squeezing every drop from our own citizens. Because we were ideologically backward. Because we lived by quotations from the past. Perestroyka should have begun immediately the direct threat of war had receded.

Today we are making the same mistake. Today nobody wants to answer the main question, the question of questions: **What should the Russian state be like?** Is there a probability of the disintegration of Russia? Yes, there is. And unless the style of government changes, Russia will indeed break up. The USSR was held together by rigorous centralization. As soon as the country started going over to a market economy the natural inequality between republics and the corresponding reluctance to share with the weak came to light. Gorbachev did not understand that a new situation had developed, and continued to bang his fist on the table and engage in intrigues in the old Central Committee way. He ended up taking his intrigues too far and losing the country. Because he would not become a partner to presidents with their own territories, but continued to rule in the style of a Kremlin czar. The same thing is happening now. Over the past five years Russia's regions have drawn closer to the contiguous sates. And this is natural in a market economy, because just as Khabarovsk is closer to China than it is to Moscow, so Sakhalin is next door to Japan, and Karelia to Finland. The North is dying because in a market economy nobody needs it. What is to be done? Should we turn back, to a rigid system of planning and norm-setting, and, with a firm hand, arrange everyone according to size? That is expensive, bloody, and old-fashioned. So what do we do, reconcile ourselves to Russia's falling to pieces? No way. So what, one wonders, is the conclusion? The Kremlin authorities absolutely must change. The obkom [oblast party committee] patronage style in work with the regions must be replaced by a partnership style. The president and premier are the governors' partners, not army superiors. Governors today have vast finances and important connections, plus they are elected by the people. Talking down to them is stupid nowadays. Nowadays you have to sit at the table with them and talk things out over some vodka. The president should meet regularly with all the governors and work out common principles of Russian statehood with them. Maybe this will be a document with no legal force. But that does not matter. Agreements between brothers in the Dolgoprudnyy or Solntsevo [places near Moscow with notorious mafia gangs] gangs also have no legal force, but a very good principle operates there — **keep your word**. In fact, it is high time the president gathered together a "Kremlin gang" of partners and applied to it the usual mafia standards of mutual relations: **You keep your word, you are responsible for the money, if you steal from the kitty (that is, the budget) you can consider yourself dead, if you let your brothers down you'll answer for it. But if the gang "boss" tries to "abandon" the brotherhood, he gets what's coming to him.** You can, and must, live well and have something, but you can't go wild. Very simple things. The governors should reach agreement on how they will collaborate with each other, what to give to the center and what to assign to

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the "boss." Reach agreement among themselves. Voluntarily. After that, if anyone tries to shirk or cheat, he need not expect a quiet life.

The present practice of concluding treaties with the Federation components is badly flawed. Again it is the obkom system: "This governor is 'one of us,' I like him, I'll conclude a treaty with him and give him privileges. I don't like that one, I won't conclude one with him or give him any privileges." Let Tatarstan and Bashkortostan have better terms so that they don't protest; the Russians, however, are quiet people, they'll wait. That is the road to the disintegration of Russia. That was the mistake Gorbachev made, flirting with the Balts by way of an economic experiment.

Now, about the premier. In the new conditions, the premier has to hand out money and follow up its use. This does not need a skilled theoretical economist, a Kremlin bureaucrat, or a "major organizer of production." What it needs is someone who knows where to get the money from, who can pick up the phone and say: "Vasya, these guys in Chukotka are asking for $10 million for such-and-such. They'll pay it back in two years. It's a very interesting project. Give them the money from such-and-such a fund." The premier personally does not want a single kopek of that money, but he is the **Boss** and in two years he will hold them strictly responsible for that money. So the relations that develop among the ruling people will be relations of **personal** responsibility for the money and the cause. Look at Mr. Nemtsov, the Nizhniy Novgorod leader nicknamed "Lemonade Joe," who gave billions of dollars of state money to a businessman friend of his, who promptly fled. What responsibility did Mr. Nemtsov take for that? None at all. He even chided the president. But the idea is that he should repay the money to the state, and even pay a bit more into the bargain, and apologize to his "brother governors" for damaging the prestige of the "Kremlin gang." And if it turns out that Nemtsov and his friend were acting in collusion and stole the "kitty" money together, then the whole idea is that a terrible punishment is in store for our Boris [Nemtsov]. But what happens today? Well, they start up some feeble proceedings at the prosecutor's office, an investigator arrives and then departs. And it's the same all over Russia. Because state money seems to belong to no one, whereas I want to know who the **Bosses** are. What we need is a **new Stalinism**, based not on the dictatorship of the stick and the order, but on the dictatorship of money, where you answer for your master's money with your life, but where the people at the top in the state are not windbags and rogues, but tough managers who have money and are prepared to hand it out to get the job done. Whereas today we have a new type of Brezhnevism, with a kind "daddy" handing out wages and signing the officials' dubious papers, and nobody responsible for anything at any level. In these conditions Russia will fall apart in the near future, because with such weak, corrupt, and slow-witted authorities every region will go and seek its fortune elsewhere.

The possibility of the breakup of Russia should worry the world a lot. First, because of the weapons of mass destruction on our territory. Second, various countries will converge in the battle for influence over the different regions. They will start trying to trip each other up and push each other away from the trough, and all kinds of things will start.... Plus floods of refugees. The world, especially Europe, understands that. So the world adopted a very calm, even benevolent, attitude to Zyuganov. The world is willing to accept the Communists: Let them turn the screws a little tighter. The West, like our own old women pensioners, is nostalgic for Communist times, when Russians with $10 in their pockets used to walk around European cities in organized tour groups headed by someone from the KGB. And how promptly they used to pay what was owned under foreign trade contracts, in the Communists' time. The West, I think, is willing to accept an "iron curtain" as long as it does not have to see the shaven napes of some of our fellow countrymen. But the "iron curtain" cannot be brought back, any more than sausage at two rubles twenty. We must move forward. We must explain the situation to the West, we must make the West abandon the Cold War mentality ("the worse things are in Russia, the better it is for us"), make the West our ally in the cause of strengthening Russia.

I have more than once criticized the West severely. I have criticized Zionism for wanting to control everyone and everything, especially in the spheres of finance and the mass media. But we have to be modern, up-to-date. While the patriots were throwing all their patriotic efforts into combating the Zionist-Masonic conspiracy, while they were studying who goes to what Masonic lodge, the Turkish threat sneaked in, all unnoticed. I told the world about the Turkish threat for the first time five years ago and wrote about it in "Last Dash to the South." At the time everyone laughed or at least smiled. It's the old Russian habit of waiting till 22 June [i.e. too late; reference is to date of German invasion of USSR in 1941]. Today, in 1996, the Turks are active everywhere: They have "seized" construction work in Moscow for sums amounting to many billions, they are in Tatarstan, they have actively infiltrated into Central Asia, they are in Crimea, they are, in the end, in Chechnya. They are restoring the White House and the State Duma, reading, incidentally, the documents left lying around on stupid civil servants' desks. The Zionists, to the best of my

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knowledge, make no claim to a single meter of Russian territory. They don't even want the Jewish Autonomous Oblast. But the Turks make claims! Claims to vast territories! And they're increasing their fleet! Yet we have spent five years failing to reach agreement with the Ukrainians about Sevastopol and the [Black Sea] Fleet. We bargain, we fuss over trifles, we fight it out with Kiev. In Belovezhskaya Pushcha they managed to reach agreement in just one night, but here.... The Russian and Ukrainian bosses must realize: If we don't reach agreement today, the Turks will be here tomorrow, and both Russians and Ukrainians will become farm laborers, draft animals. Stalin trusted Hitler before the war and hated the English, yet Hitler had troops on our borders, but there were no English on our borders. In the same way our patriots brush aside "Eurasianism" as if they were pushing aside liquid dung with a stick, and they hate the Zionists, whereas really we don't give a damn about the fate of Jerusalem, while we certainly do give a damn about the fate of Crimea. The Turks have an actual army at our borders, whereas there is not a single Israeli soldier. So think about it, citizens....

It is quite obvious that the Americans have been fattening up Turkey in order to destabilize their biggest competitor — Europe. The Turks flooded Europe, especially Germany. That was the prelude. The show began with the Yugoslavia crisis and is continuing in Chechnya; next it will be Central Asia and the Caucasus, and in parallel they are starting fires in Western Europe. It seems the Germans have begun to grasp this, and so have the other Europeans. But everything depends on Russia. And Russia, as always, is asleep, is many years behind. In the world of 1996 there are entirely new forms of relationships between people, and maybe also new forms of state structure — transnational corporations, drugs cartels, giant money-laundering and arms-dealing syndicates, a complex interwoven structure of powerful special services, global computer networks, yet we, like Pierre Bezukhov [in Tolstoy's "War and Peace"] in the early 19th century, are still tormented by the ghost of Freemasonry. Answer me this question: What is the state today? Today Gazprom is more powerful than any state. And what about Coca-Cola? The CIA? The theorists should today start discussing the concept of the "state" in the late 20th century and give us an answer to many questions, so that we can renew our ideological arsenal and not answer every question with quotations from Solovyev or Marx, who would have gone crazy if they had heard that the turnover of certain corporations is bigger than the budget of some states.

If we were thinking in up-to-date terms, we would take a different approach to NATO expansion.

It is stupid to go into hysterics over NATO. First, because our former allies will join NATO just the same, and so we are doomed to suffer a diplomatic defeat. Second, and most important, there is no military threat to us from the West. It is hard to imagine the Germans, Belgians, and French, who cannot go a single day without their mobile telephone, a hot bath, and a cup of good coffee, coming to make war on us. For a long time the West has been waging war by other methods — informational, organizational, financial. Yet we still think in terms of World War II. The Communists kept on strengthening defenses and keeping the border firmly sealed, and meanwhile Mr. Dollar climbed into the pockets of Russia's citizens and took over the country's economy. The real military threat to us is not in the West, but in the South, where there are barbarians who know nothing of hot baths and mobile telephones, where there is no economy, where there is no work, where there are only drugs and weapons. Let the Poles and Slovaks ponder why they are joining NATO, why they are putting themselves in its sole hands instead of maneuvering between East and West. There is no need for us to ponder it, NATO is nothing to us, we have plenty of missiles for both the new NATO members and the old ones. So we should immediately stop the distracting fuss about NATO expansion and start talking about the real threats. And after a while we will realize that Yeltsin was right to strike first in the southern salient, where Dudayev, not without Turkish help, was forming an army against Russia (I have seen it with my own eyes). Yeltsin did not wait for Dudayev to invade Stavropol Kray (whereupon Budennovsk would have turned out with flowers). I asked the Chechens: "What do you want with aircraft, armored carriers, or even one single ballistic missile?" They answered with a laugh.

That army had to be destroyed, come what may — either by diverting it to a contiguous state (which is what I would have done), or coming down on it with our own might (as Yeltsin did). The other way (the way of Yavlinskiy, the communists, and the rest) is to conduct pointless talks and wait for 22 June.

The economy will also see its 22 June soon. The whole of industry was dispersed, via Chubays' privatization. The struggle for possession has been in progress for five years. Directors, bandits, bureaucrats, and foreign hangers-on came together in a battle to the death for thousands of enterprises, large and small. While they were fighting, not a kopek was invested in production, and all the equipment turned into scrap. No strategic investor will come to our country as long as he has to deal with the director of each enterprise individually. No proper investor will go to the city of X, where there are

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no roads, where nobody speaks English, where there is not a single decent restaurant or hotel, and where, most important, you can get no satisfaction from your partners. You partner could disappear, cheat you, and no investor is going to do anything. So what is to be done now? Using economic methods, we should achieve the creation, in the strategic sectors, of two or three major competing concerns with rigid hierarchical management systems. In this way the world will know exactly who in Russia is in control of fertilizers, oil, aircraft building, civil aviation, and other important things. And then a large-scale investor will appear, because there will be far more guarantees and it will be easier to control your partner. And it will be easier for the state to collect taxes. And production planning and a market strategy will finally appear, because the Gariks and Toliks who control every little plant individually have no market strategy except that of stealing money. Giant corporations rule the world, yet we went and dispersed them, and now that we have eaten our way through all the capital, we look enviously at Gazprom, which one man, a kulak [rich peasant] in his innermost nature [reference to former Gazprom chief Chernomyrdin], would not let them break up.

The fate of Russia, the fate of the Russian economy, depends directly on Moscow, where vast sums of capital circulate. If Moscow turns its back on our regions and its face toward the Western financial centers, the country will fall apart. We must ensure that Moscow capital becomes interwoven as quickly as possible with the provinces' capital. That could be encouraged by means of organizational measures too, by granting the Moscow mayor some special place in the federal government or under the president.

A friend of mine said recently: "What terrible songs they have nowadays! No tune, just rhythm." Another friend answered him: "The songs aren't terrible, they're just modern." In politics it is extremely important to be modern and to foresee what songs will be sung tomorrow. The first to sense this will become great. If the "Zorro of the Kremlin," Mr. Lebed, senses it, he will become great. If he does not sense it, he will get Chubays' associates out of the White House.

Russia: People's Patriotic Union Outlines Goals

MM1208154996 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 2

["Declaration of the People's Patriotic Union of Russia Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The People's Patriotic Union of Russia [NPSR] movement is a union of all the motherland's progressive patriotic forces for the purpose of taking an active part in the country's public life, establishing genuine people's power, building a powerful, truly democratic, rule-of-law, socially just state, consolidating civil accord and social stability, providing the conditions necessary for the all-around development of every people, restoring people's dignity, and achieving prosperity for every family.

The movement's main tasks are:

in the political sphere:

— to abandon the current regime's disastrous policy for Russia and change its antipeople course by constitutional means;

— to establish a regime which reflects the interests of the overwhelming majority of citizens in Russia as a whole;

— to effect changes in society on the basis of its evolutionary development grounded in a long-term, scientifically validated national state strategy of reviving Russia without political upheavals or civil confrontation;

— to change the balance between the branches of state power by constitutional means on the basis of a sensible separation of powers and responsibilities;

— to establish the regular mandatory accountability of the organs of authority to the people and their equality before the law and vest in the representative organs the functions of monitoring the executive authorities' activity at all levels;

— to develop federation relations on the basis of the recognition of and respect for the rights of all the peoples of Russia; to prevent the solution of ethnic conflicts by strong-arm methods; to stop military operations in Chechnya immediately and conduct an objective public investigation of the causes of that tragedy;

— to create a reliable system guaranteeing the security and defense capability of the state by enhancing the Armed Forces' combat capability and ensuring all-around state support and development of the military-industrial complex and the production of modern equipment and armaments; to intensify countermeasures against the subversive activity of foreign states' special services; to strengthen the law-enforcement agencies and enhance the level of social protection afforded servicemen and the members of their families;

— to protect comprehensively citizens' legitimate rights and freedoms, guarantee their personal and public safety, and suppress the orgy of crime and corruption and its causes.

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— to cooperate actively for the good of the people and the fatherland with the Russian Orthodox Church, Islam, and Buddhist and other traditional religions and faiths of Russia;

— to prevent the psychological, spiritual, and moral destruction of society by the mass media through misuse of information; to create equal access to the media for all strata of society, the branches of executive power, and public associations at both central and local level;

in the economic sphere:

— to overcome the socioeconomic crisis and create a powerful, socially oriented Russian economy capable of guaranteeing our security and a decent life for all the citizens of our fatherland;

— to create equal conditions for the development of all forms of ownership and form a mixed economy while preserving state control over the base sectors which ensure the country's economic and national security; to provide all-around support to home commodity producers regardless of the form of ownership or organizational and legal forms, including small and medium-sized businesses, and to the priority rights of labor collectives to make an independent choice of their form of ownership and management;

— to make sensible, effective use of the country's natural resources and raw materials and accord priority to the development of processing industries, the production of consumer goods and services, and agriculture; to prevent the purchase and sale of land intended for agriculture, forests, and mineral wealth; to increase the size of orchard, dacha, and subsidiary plots, with the right to own them for life, inherit, gift, purchase, or sell them;

— to carry out consistent, scientifically based systematic and coordinated program measures to secure a fundamental improvement of the environmental situation in the country and create favorable conditions for the life and work of current and future generations of Russians;

— to prevent the collapse of the national financial system by strengthening the ruble, improving the tax and credit policy of the state and the system of settlements, protecting Russian banking structures, and creating a favorable investment climate in the country;

— to form the conditions necessary for the dynamic development of the country's science and the switch to new, progressive, and sophisticated technologies capable of ensuring Russia's scientific and technical breakthrough in the 21st century by all-around state support for sciences and technology and the priority funding and implementation of scientific discoveries and research efforts;

in the social sphere:

— to restore working people's social gains, create the conditions necessary for every family and individual to enjoy rising material prosperity, and raise every citizen, above all children and youngsters, on humanist, national, and patriotic values and traditions and the best traditions of world culture;

— to remove unfair property and social stratification in society and reduce the gap between the living standards of the rich and the poor;

to revive the population's mass purchasing power by increasing its real income and filling the Russian market with high-quality home-produced competitive consumer goods and services; to pursue a sensible state policy on questions concerning the import of industrial goods and foodstuffs;

— to establish the guaranteed minimum wage, state pensions, and social benefits and allowances at the level of a realistic subsistence minimum;

— to overcome unemployment, prevent delays in the payment of wages, state pensions, and social benefits and allowances, and ensure that they are regularly indexed;

— to provide free and effective systems of state healthcare and secondary and higher education and create equal initial opportunities for young people to obtain general and vocational education and work in their chosen specialism;

— to ensure well-appointed housing is accessible to all citizens, particularly the underprivileged, who are in need of it and to reduce the payment for housing, municipal services, and passenger transport;

— to form an effective mechanism for the social protection of disabled and underprivileged members of the population;

— to provide without fail the full concessions, allowances, and benefits set by law for veterans of the Great Patriotic War and labor, the families of deceased servicemen and members of law-enforcement agencies, invalids, women, young people, children, people from the Far North, victims of the Chernobyl tragedy, refugees, displaced persons, illegally repressed citizens, and other categories;

— to restore and develop a system providing sanitarium and health resort treatment, recreation, and protection for mothers and children which is accessible to all strata

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of the population, particularly children, invalids, and veterans ;

— really to restore to citizens their cash savings which have been devalued by the state as a result of the pursuit of a policy of price liberalization or which have been lost by them as a result of the bankruptcy of banking and financial structures;

— to establish a genuinely equitable contract-based system of social partnership between the state, employers, and trade unions;

— to create for all components of the Russian Federation, particularly the Far North and comparable territories, and local self-management the economic and legal conditions necessary for them to solve their vital regional and local social problems;

— to provide guaranteed priority financing of the country's science, national culture, education, healthcare, social provision, physical culture, sports, and tourism;

The NPSR all-Russia social movement declares its commitment to a policy of universal peace and international cooperation based on the principles of equal partnership and the inadmissibility of diktat by any side, the strengthening of economic, cultural, and legal cooperation among the former republics of the Soviet Union, the all-around promotion of integration with them, the development in the new conditions of comprehensive ties with fraternal peoples, and the protection of the generally recognized rights and freedoms of the Russian-speaking population living outside Russia.

Media Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Appoints Valentin Yumashev Media Links Adviser

LD1308120996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1136 GMT 13 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today appointed by decree Valentin Yumashev as his adviser. Sergey Medvedev, today released by another presidential decree from the post of press secretary to the head of state, informed journalists of this at a briefing today.

Medvedev said that Valentin Yumashev is now the third adviser to Boris Yeltsin alongside Sergey Krasavchenko and Vyacheslav Volkov and "as a literary man will ensure links between the head of state and the information structures of his administration and with the mass media."

Russia: PRAVDA Publishers Reject Demands by Newspaper Staff

LD1208165296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 12 (Interfax) — Pravda International, the Greek publishers of the Moscow-based PRAVDA newspaper, has rejected an ultimatum by a group of paper editors who insist that the publication of the loss-making newspaper be resumed, newspaper editing policy remain intact and editor-in-chief Aleksandr Ilyin stay put, company financial director Teodor Yannikos told Interfax on Monday.

He said the family company led by Greek-born father Yanis Yannikos and general and financial directors — brothers Christos and Teodor — "has undertaken the burden of financing and distributing the newspaper without setting any political conditions and retaining the paper's opposition's stance." But in the past few months, three or four members of the editing staff headed by editor-in-chief Aleksandr Ilyin have embarked "on the road of confrontation by rejecting all proposals on better upkeep of the paper, while work discipline and organization have sharply fallen, the financial director said.

The company suspended the paper from July 25 by deciding to transfer PRAVDA-PYAT weekly, which was co-founded by the PRAVDA staff, to a daily publication until the question of Ilyin's dismissal was resolved.

But on August 9, said Yannikos, a letter slipped into his office and alleged to have been approved by the staff was in fact written by the same group demanding that the funding and publication of PRAVDA be resumed while its editor-in-chief stay put in his job.

He said this was unacceptable because the observance of the principles of plurality and democracy on the paper's pages as envisaged by "our agreement with this old Russian newspaper" was being flouted by Ilyin.

Military & Space Issues

Russia: Black Sea Fleet To Be Based at Russian, Ukrainian Ports

LD1208122696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1154 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Aug 12 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Black Sea Fleet will shortly be subdivided into two parts, a western unit based in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol and an eastern one based in the Russian port of Novorossiysk, fleet commander Admiral Viktor Kravchenko told INTERFAX.

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He said he believed about 100 vessels and 30,000 sailors would be the fleet's optimum size.

The western unit, in addition to its main base in the Crimean port of Sevastopol, will have other facilities on the peninsula: three airfields — in Kacha, Gvardeiskoye and Khersones — and a testing ground in Feodosia, Kravchenko said.

Developing the small present-day base in Novorossiysk into a proper one is a difficult task which "will take a lot of time and will cost a lot of money" to carry out, he said.

The admiral said he was sure the fleet was even today capable of carrying out any assignment in the Black and Mediterranean Seas.

He said that on August 15 the flagship Kerch, an antisubmarine vessel, would take part in the Breeze '96 international exercises off Bulgaria's coast and on its way back would practice artillery fire.

Speaking about the issue of the division of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine, Kravchenko said Kiev demanded that both the Russian and Ukrainian parts be based in Sevastopol while Moscow insisted that the Sochi agreement meant that the two parts, instead of being based in different harbors in Sevastopol, should have bases with totally different locations with Sevastopol being the Russian part's main base.

Russia: Prospects of Russian Arms Exports Viewed

MM1208123996 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p V

[Report by Nikolay Novichkov: "New Leaders Emerging in the World Arms Trade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A recently published report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [SIPRI], devoted to an analysis of the world market for conventional categories of arms and military equipment, ranks Russia second after the United States in terms of volumes of arms exports. But the SIPRI experts made a mistake by crediting Russia with a volume of export sales totaling $3,905 billion. In actual fact, based on last year's results, our country increased its share of worldwide exports to 13.4 percent, which amounts to $3.05 billion.

On the whole, Russia's positions in the world arms market, which weakened seriously in the first few years following the USSR's collapse, have maintained a growth trend for a few years now. In 1995 Russia not only increased its share in worldwide export volumes from its 7.5-percent share ($1.71 billion) in 1994, but also ranked second only behind the United States which controls 43.4 percent of the world arms market (with a volume of sales amounting to $9.894 billion), overtaking Germany and Britain. About 52 percent of Russian exports are attributable to aviation equipment, 25 percent to ground forces weapons and combat equipment, and 10 percent each to naval equipment and air defense systems. Last year's revenue, amounting to $3.05 billion, was shared as follows: $2.8 billion for the Rosvooruzheniye State Company and $0.205 billion for the MAPO [Moscow Aviation Production Association] Military-Industrial Company.

This year Rosvooruzheniye plans to sell arms worth about $3.5 billion, has orders worth in excess of $7 billion, and expects to sign contracts for an additional amount of $3-3.5 billion by year's end.

The MAPO MIG (now the MAPO Military-Industrial Company) concluded contracts worth about $1 billion last year. Aleksandr Ageyev, MAPO director for strategic analysis, marketing, and information, announced that this year the company plans to maintain the level it has reached in terms of contracts for the delivery of aviation equipment. It cannot be ruled out that MAPO's positions in the aviation market in Asia and Southeast Asia will be strengthened once the company is joined by the Progress Helicopter Plant in the city of Arsenyev, which produces Ka-50 helicopters and has started producing the Ka-52 two-seater modification. Several countries in the aforementioned regions are among the potential clients for these helicopters.

There were 721 firms from 33 countries taking part in the show which is considered second only to the IDEX show in Abu-Dhabi. Russia took part in the Eurosatori show for the first time, and its exhibit included 150 models of the latest Russian weapons, some of which were created [sozdany] in cooperation with foreign countries.

At Le Bourget Russia continued its marketing campaign to promote the improved Smerch multiple rocket launcher in the world market, and expects to make this system one of the most widely exported items, ranking with combat aircraft and tanks. In August 1994 Kuwait became the first country to buy 27 Smerch multiple rocket launcher systems at $1.8 billion each. The contract's total value was about $400 billion.

In the Persian Gulf region Russia ranks only fourth (5 percent) after the United States (56 percent), West Europe (32 percent), and other countries (7 percent). The end of combat operations there in 1991 saw the launch of a large-scale campaign to discredit Russian arms, a campaign which was actively joined by many of our own mass media. All this helped to squeeze our

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country out of the Near East market. But the situation now has changed, and the especially active critics of Russian arms might be interested to learn that the U.S. Congress General Accounting Office completed a four-year study and drafted a report which seriously criticized the justification of large-scale use of F-117A aircraft with stealth elements, Tomahawk cruise missiles, and guided aviation bombs with laser targeting systems by the multinational forces in combat operations in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. experts emphasized in particular that U.S. Department of Defense reports on the effectiveness of the use of these weapons were highly exaggerated and often contained false data or data which, for objective reasons, could not be verified or confirmed.

The Eurosatori-96 show also saw demonstrations of the initial results of military-technical cooperation between Russia and France, which is one of our serious competitors mainly in the Near East market for arms and combat equipment. Cooperation with France — which has led to a modernization of the Grad multiple rocket launcher which, beginning in 1997, will be manufactured for sale to third countries — could in the long run change the situation in some spheres of the arms trade. Rosvooruzheniye State Company experts assume that cooperation between our two countries will make it possible to achieve much better results in the world arms market than if Russia and France were to treat each other only as rivals. It cannot be ruled out that Russian-French military-technical cooperation will enhance the competitiveness of military output produced on the basis of production sharing and will make it possible to squeeze out the United States — today's leader in the arms trade sphere.

Russia: Joint French Space Launch Postponed Until 19 Aug

LD1308101296 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 13 Aug 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The launch of the Russian-French space crew had been planned for 17 August. However, a week before the flight, changes have been made to the program. Instead of commander Gennadiy Manakov and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov, their back-up crew — Valeriy Korzun and Aleksandr Kaleriy — will set off for the Mir station. As we were told at Zvezdnyy Gorodok, the changes have been made because of the state of health of one of the cosmonauts. What exactly happened to him was not explained to us. They simply pointed out that this was a perfectly normal thing. How true this is is difficult to say, but it is absolutely certain that the current change in the crew a week before the launch is the first instance of its kind in the history of Russian cosmonautics.

According to the rules of space flight, in the event of the poor health of one of the cosmonauts, the whole crew is replaced by the back-up, inasmuch as this is a team which has worked together, trained together and is psychologically compatible. However, in this case, there will be no replacement for the French astronaut-scientist Claudie Deshays. This is understandable, because France has already paid Russia 82 million francs for her 16-day stay on the Mir station. And Claudie Deshays, from what she herself says, has been dreaming about this flight for eleven years. But she will still have to wait two more days than she planned. The launch of the Soyuz TM-24 has been put back from 17 to 19 August.

In connection with the replacement of the crew, time is needed to prepare individual space suits and reclining seats, and also they can check once more all the systems of the Soyuz-U carrier-rocket which recently just did not want to go into orbit. Incidentally, the use of the Soyuz-U is an enforced measure. Compared with the carrier-rocket Soyuz U-2, on which the cosmonauts always used to fly, it carries into orbit 275 kg of useful cargo less. However, there is no money for a more powerful rocket. So, in order not to overload the spacecraft they have even forbidden the Frenchwoman to take her lucky charm with her. But she won't be parted with it for long — only sixteen days — for the [spacecraft's] return should be exactly on time as the Soyuz-TM 23 landing module has a guarantee of only six months. It is now running out. When the engine stops the nitrous oxide starts to evaporate and problems could arise on landing. But first they must take off.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Duma Official Calls For State of Emergency in Chechnya

LD1308104796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 13 (INTERFAX) — First Deputy Speaker of Russia's State Duma Aleksandr Shokhin (Russia Is Our Home) disagrees with Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed's view that to impose a state of emergency in Chechnya is inexpedient.

"Eighteen months of war in Chechnya without a state of emergency have proved that the lack of unified government is a major reason why the federal forces suffered a failure there," Shokhin told Interfax on Tuesday, substantiating the need for such a radical step.

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According to him, the imposition of a state of emergency will make it possible to create a legitimate and effective system of government. "Today the need to create a legal base there is clear, and the fact that all the branches of government admit the necessity of imposing a state of emergency is indicative," Shokhin said.

According to him, the productivity of further contacts with separatist leaders depends on whether Lebed's plan contains something more than the call for disengaging troops and starting talks.

When resolving the problem of Chechnya's status it is necessary to take into account the circumstance that "the current conflict in Chechnya has taken a clear anti-Russian direction," Shokhin said. "If troops are withdrawn from there and an agreement on dividing powers between Russia and Chechnya is signed, it is clear that the present terrorists will seize the leadership, and fresh disobedience to Russia on their part is possible," Shokhin warned.

Russia: Faction Leaders Cited on Chernomyrdin Vote

MM1308101996 Moscow PRAVDA PYAT in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 2

[Unattributed feature under the "Duma and Government" rubric: "Time To Repeat the Immortal Saying: 'Even a Wise Man Stumbles'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 10 July [as published], in the vote on the prime ministerial candidacy, the State Duma supported V. Chernomyrdin. Out of 402 deputies, 314 voted for him and 85 against, with three abstentions. Some deputies from the Yabloko faction refused in principle to vote on the matter.

During the preliminary discussion the leaders of all the factions and deputies' groups made a good many critical comments against the government, but only Gennadiy Zyuganov, on behalf of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], refused Chernomyrdin his confidence. The rest shared the view that there is, in effect, no choice.... It is noteworthy that half of the Communists, despite their leader's tough line, voted "in favor." G. Zyuganov explained this as follows: Some of the deputies from areas where Yeltsin won were entitled to vote in accordance with their regions' will.

The deputies were guided in making their choice — at least, this is what some of them assert — not only by their own political convictions, but also by the realities of the situation that has developed. That is why many oppositionists supported Chernomyrdin. Many, but not all. The selection of deputies' comments which we offer here represents the most widespread arguments "for" and "against."

Nikolay Ryzhkov, leader of the People's Power deputies' group:

"We did not have a single opinion, and we agreed: Everyone will vote at the prompting of his reason, conscience, and heart. Personally I voted 'in favor.' For two reasons.

"The Chernomyrdin government has made too many promises, the situation now is very grave — let it fulfill its promises. People trusted them — the time has come to pay back what they owe. If someone else is put at the head of the government now, there will be nobody to call to account, and all the former government's pledges will be left hanging in the air....

"Also, there was a danger that a candidate would be proposed for this post whom the Duma would never approve....

"We know well all the sins and errors of Chernomyrdin's government and have quite rightly criticized it. It is necessary to change the course of economic reforms, a concrete program for emerging from the crisis is needed. It is a pity that we still did not hear a list of anticrisis measures in his report...."

Sergey Baburin, deputy chairman of the State Duma:

"I was prepared to support anyone who intends to change the economic course and bring into the government people who inspire confidence. Chernomyrdin did not answer the questions about the composition of the future government, nor about the economic course....

"It must not be forgotten that it was his government which in recent years 'achieved' a 50-percent slump in production and the carnage in Chechnya....

"A government which counts on success in the cause of the country's revival must be based not only on a small group of the new bourgeoisie, but on the broadest possible spectrum of social forces. At the moment the government has no such intention, no desire to make compromises, but it cannot be ruled out that such a desire will emerge. And then the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of power will become more constructive and fruitful...."

Nikolay Kharitonov, leader of the Agrarian Deputies' Group:

"The majority of the Agrarians supported Viktor Chernomyrdin. Because, first, we recognize that the winner of the presidential elections has the right to form a government at his own discretion. Second, we can see that

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Chernomyrdin's views have begun to evolve. He has acknowledged that all the promises made by Yeltsin which secured his election victory must be fulfilled. So let him do the job. Any new person would have had to spend a long time getting the hang of things and the country's economy simply could not stand it....

"Some people wanted to start a big fight in the Duma, but nothing came of it....

"The parliament's support for Chernomyrdin is a kind of warning to Chubays: Don't get too big for your boots, work within the constitutional framework...."

Yelena Mizulina, deputy from the Yabloko faction:

"I did not take part in the vote, I did not even take a card to allow myself the opportunity to retract. My conscience would not allow me to vote 'in favor,' I am more likely 'against.' Opinions were divided in our faction....

"The negative results of the government's activities in recent years are plain to see. And it is not clear how Chernomyrdin intends to adjust the course — this was not made clear in his speech to deputies. There are no answers to many pressing questions which concern my voters, so I see no sense in supporting him....

"Viktor Stepanovich was wrong to say he does not want to be confined by a time limit — that shows disrespect for the population: The executive must adhere to the time limits laid down.

"Chernomyrdin said that his visit to parliament will leave its mark. I hope he listened to us, listened to our voters, and will try to take their opinions into account. Of course, I would like his words and deeds not to differ, but there is not much hope of that...."

Russia: Adoption of Law on Special Situation in Economy Unlikely

MM1208134496 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Stepan Kiselev: "Democrats Write Law on Special Situation in the Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Work on the draft law "On the Special Situation in the Economy," which is being drawn up by deputies from Russia's Choice, will be completed in the next few days. Sergey Yushenkov told your IZVESTIYA correspondent that the intention is to submit the draft law at the next session of the State Duma, as it relates to the discussion of the economic crisis in Maritime Kray. The deputies' signatures needed to include this question in the agenda of the State Duma session will be collected on the very day when all deputies interrupt their holidays in order to gather in Moscow for the presidential inauguration. At least Sergey Yushenkov did not express any doubts on this score, pointing out, in addition, that he has reached an agreement with Sergey Belyayev on deputies in the Russia Is Our Home faction supporting this initiative.

I managed to talk to some of those responsible for the draft law: They were greatly embarrassed by the fact that they, market economists and democratic state officials, are having to write a law that clearly has nothing to do with the market and is not democratic. They did not hide the fact that they are writing it "with an eye on Nazdratenko [governor or Maritime Kray": the draft law has to create a legal basis for removing the elected governor of Maritime Kray from office. They also pointed out that Presidential Edict No. 810, which deals with this subject and provides for the dismissal of negligent governors, cannot fully legalize the procedure of "governor impeachment"; putting it into practice would probably lead to litigation in the Constitutional Court, with a very uncertain outcome.

It is proposed to enshrine a norm in the law whereby a region of Russia may be declared bankrupt and have economic rescue procedures forcibly applied to it, as would be the case with a bankrupt enterprise. The draft law lists a number of objective criteria (the state and structure of the budget) on the basis of which the federal government will declare a component of the Russian Federation "bankrupt" and introduce a special economic situation in its territory. In such a case, the president will issue an edict to remove the governor from office, and all his powers relating to the administration of the regional budget will be transferred to the head of a government commission specially set up for the purpose. The "newcomers" to the region will not have any emergency powers, however: The emphasis will primarily be placed on the professionalism of the Moscow "raiding party," rather than on draconian measures. They will be able to change taxation policy (again, not exceeding the powers of the Federation component concerned), but the fundamental values of a market economy (ownership rights and competition) will remain firm. It is proposed that this state of affairs be maintained for one year. The oblast budget must be put in order during this time; preparations must also be made for electing a new governor, to whom power will be restored.

Those responsible for the draft law rate its chances of adoption by the Duma as nil. It is understood that the Communists, who now rely on the influence of "red" governors, will probably vote it down.

But even if we were to think the unthinkable and imagine the draft law getting through the lower chamber,

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there is absolutely no chance of it surviving the Federation Council, which is autocratically controlled by regional elites. Moreover, there are fears that the draft law could provoke the Communists into preparing an alternative legal act, but with all the delights of a state of emergency: Nationalization of property, a review of the results of privatization, and so forth. While the Communists agree with the democrats that the economy in many regions is "going nowhere," they will blame the Kremlin for everything and put forward a directly opposite concept: Only emergency powers for governors can save Russia.

Russia: List of Legislative, Regulatory Documents 4-10 Aug

96P50116A

[FBIS Report] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parentheses indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Government 25 May Decree No. 639 Approving Proposal For Foundation Of 'Kamennaya Step' Nature Reserve In Voronezh Oblast. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 5) (300)

Government 24 June Directive No. 986 Accepting Proposal To Transfer 'Gidrometpribor' Plant To Defense Industry Ministry. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (100)

Two Appendixes To Government Decree No. 793 Of 12 July Comprising "Basic Principles Of The Functioning And Development Of The Federal (Russia-Wide) Wholesale Market For Electricity (Capacity)" And List Of Commercial Players In Wholesale Electricity Market Whose Tariffs Are Set By The Russian Federation Federal Energy Commission. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 13) (3500)

Government 17 July Decree No. 827 On Arrangements To Celebrate 200th Anniversary Of Creation Of Forestry Department On Russia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 6) (400)

Government 17 July Decree No. 865 On Measures For Development Of Belgorod Oblast's Mining And Metallurgy Complex In 1996-2000. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (600)

Government 17 July Decree No. 866 Partially Amending Import Duty Rates Approved By 11 April 1996 Decree No. 413, Listing Products Affected. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 14) (400)

Government 17 July Decree No. 870 On Measures For State Support For Republic Of Khakassia's Socioeconomic Development In 1996-2000. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (700)

Government 17 July Decree No. 885 On Amount Of Free Financial Assistance For Building Or Acquisition Of Housing By Cossack Community Members. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (400)

Government 17 July Directive No. 1136 On State Support For Veterans' Associations And Centers Providing Social And Legal Aid For Them. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 1) (300)

Government 18 July Decree No. 808 Tightening Rules For Individual Carriage Of Consumer Goods Across Russian Borders. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 5) (2200)

Government 18 July Decree No. 849 Exempting Trout From Value-Added Tax. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 5) (100)

Government 18 July Decree No. 850 On Amendments To 8 February 1996 Decree No. 129 On Approving Procedure For Setting Ethylene Spirit Purchase Quotas. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 6) (300)

Government 18 July Decree No. 852 On Hunting Regulations For Various Kinds Of Fauna. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 5) (750)

Government 18 July Decree No. 853 'On Procedure For Approving Provisions Relating To Federal, Territorial, And Departmental Cartographic And Geodesic Funds And Lists Of Material And Data Contained Therein.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 6) (400)

Government 18 July Decree No. 859 Transferring To Samara Oblast Jurisdiction Various Sociocultural, Municipal, And Consumer Service Facilities, Administered By Federally Owned Enterprises Not Subject To Privatization, According To Appended List. (Moscow

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ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 6) (100/500)

Government 23 July Decree No. 883 On Import Duty, VAT Concessions On Goods Imported By Foreign Investors As Contribution To Incorporation Capital Of Enterprises Which Have Foreign Investment, Specifying Terms Which Such Imports Must Meet, Sanctions For Breaches, Tasking Various Bodies With Ensuring That Only Fixed Capital Goods Receive Such Concessions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 14) (550)

Government 23 July Directive No. 1164 Allocating R5 Billion 'Exceptional' Financial Recovery Loan To Tyrnyaszovskiy Tungsten And Molybdenum Plant In Balkaria. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 6) (150)

Government 26 July Decree No. 887 Adding To List Of Goods Attracting Special Import Concessions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 5) (400)

Government 27 July Decree No. 901 Approving Rules On Housing, Municipal Service Benefits To Invalids And Families With Invalid Children, Plus Text Of Rules In Question. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 4) (300/2000)

Government 27 July Decree No. 906 On Federal Targeted Programs For Improving The Position Of Children. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 5) (400)

Government 27 July Decree No. 908 On Levying Excise Duty On Oil And Natural Gas Being Exported From Russian Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 4) (400)

Government 27 July Decree No. 910 On Forecast Targets For Mobilizing Revenues Into Federal Budget In 1996 For RF Component5 Plus List Of Such Targets. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 4) (900)

Government 27 July Directive No. 1012 Approving Overall Volume Of Quotas For Ethyl Alcohol Purchases According To Unpublished Appendix. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (150)

Government 27 July Directive No. 1185 Identifying State Purchasing Authorities For Various Aspects Of Tyumen Oblast Socioeconomic Development Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 5) (300)

Yeltsin 30 July Federal Law No. 99 On Amendments And Additions To Earlier law On Social Protection Of Citizens Who Suffered Radiation Effects Following Mayak Association Accident In 1957. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 3) (700)

Government 31 July Decree No. 915 Amending Rules Governing Alcohol Production. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 5) (600)

Yeltsin 31 July Federal Law No. 104 Ratifying Agreement On Commodity Turnover And Production Sharing. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 3) (50)

RF 1 August Presidential Edict No. 1129 On Additional Measures To Provide Industry And Population With Electric Power And Heating During 1996-1997 Period. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 4) (1300)

RF 1 August Federal Law No. 106 On Budget Of Federal Fund For Compulsory Medical Insurance. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 4) (500)

Yeltsin 1 August Federal Law No. 107 On Compensation For Expenditure On Food Incurred By Students At Various Educational Establishments. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 3) (600)

Government 3 August Decree No. 927 Adding To State Employee Payment Regulations To Allow Extra Payments From Non-Budget Funding. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 5) (200)

Federal Law No. 109 Of 7 August Adding Paragraph To Law On State Pensions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 4) (3000)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Presidential Staff Document No. 2291 Of 26 June Adding 'Goskomlesprom Rossii' To List Of Full And Abbreviated Titles Of Federal Organs Of Executive Power. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 6) (200)

Government 1 July Decree No. 768 Approving Proposal For 1996-1997 Yuriy Gulyayev Memorial Competition For Opera Singers In Tyumen Oblast. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 5) (400)

Supreme Court, Higher Court Of Arbitration Plenum Resolution No. 6/8 Of 1 July On Questions Linked With

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Application Of Part One Of Russian Federation Civil Code. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 pp 12-13) (8000)

Government 12 July Decree No. 789 Setting Up Fire Safety, Fire Insurance Funds, With Aleksandr Linkov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 5) (450/600)

Government 17 July Decree No. 821 Amending Decree No. 795 Of 6 July 1994 On Joining Agreement Of Importation Of Educational, Scientific, And Cultural Materials. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 6) (100)

Government 17 July Decree No. 831 Approving Appended Procedure For Issue Of Weapons To Individuals Subject To State Protection. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (150/1000)

Government 17 July Decree No. 864 Approving Appended Statute For Attraction Of Funds From Extrabudgetary Sources To Finance Implementation Of Targeted Program For Industrial Recycling Of Arms And Combat Equipment Through The Year 2000. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (100/700)

Government 17 July Directive No. 1119 Accepting Proposal To Seek Loans Of Up To $38 Million From Turkey And Up To $20 Million From Canada To Finance Procurement Of Machinery For Manufacture Of Digital Telecommunications Equipment At Instrument Building Plant In City Of Trekhgornyy, Chelyabinsk Oblast. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 1) (400)

Government 17 July Directive No. 1143 On Adoption Of Omsk Oblast Proposal For Holding Exhibition Of Arms And Military hardware Produced By Defense Industry Plants In Siberia And Urals In Omsk In September. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 4) (400)

Government 17 July Directive No. 1170 Accepting Proposal To Seek Loan Of Up To $15 Million From Japan's Export-Import Bank To Finance Procurement Of Machinery For Manufacture Of Specialized Children's Foods At Khabarovsk Dairy Combine. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 1) (400)

Government 17 July Directive No. 1176 On Organization Of 'Pryzhok-300' International Competitions For The Disabled. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 6) (700)

Government 17 July Directive No. 1179 On Next Stage Of Tretyakov Art Gallery Modernization. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 5) (500)

Government 18 July Directive No. 1158 Accepting Proposal To Transfer Pushkin Russian Language Institute To State Committee For Higher Education. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (100)

Government 23 July Decree No. 881 Approving Appended 'Russian Language' Federal Targeted Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 5) (200/5000)

Government 27 July Decree No. 889 Approving Agreement Between RF and IBRD On Loan To Finance Highway Bridge Repairs. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 3) (450)

Government 27 July Decree No. 890 On Approval Of Loan Agreement With IBRD To Finance Legal Reform Measures In Russia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (300)

Government 27 July Decree No. 891 Appointing First Deputy Premier Lobov Chairman Of Russian Parts Of Mixed Intergovernmental Commissions For Cooperation With Turkey, Syria, And Norway and Relieving Soskovets Of Duties As Chairman. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 4) (200) (Text)

Government 27 July Decree No. 893 Establishing Cadet Corp's Of Federal Border Service. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 4) (400)

Government 27 July Decree No. 895 Deeming April 1993 Decree No. 307 'On The Registration And Publication Of Departmental Normative Acts' Null And Void. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 4) (100)

Government 27 July Decree No. 903 On Procedure For Transfer Of RF Armed Forces And Other Troops To Voluntary Manpower Acquisition System For Units Being Posted To Armed Conflict Zones And Participating In Combat Operations. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 3) (300) (Text)

Government 27 July Decree No. 907 Approving And Submitting For Ratification Agreement On Encouragement And Reciprocal Protection Of Capital Investments With Republic Of Croatia, Appointing Deputy Economy Minister Kossov Government Spokesman During Parliamentary Hearings. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 6) (150)

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Government 27 July Directive No. 1179 On Next Stage Of Tretyakov Art Gallery Modernization. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 5) (500)

Yeltsin 30 July Federal Law No. 100 Ratifying Trade And Economic Cooperation Agreement With Lebanon. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 3) (50)

Yeltsin 30 July Federal Law No. 101 Ratifying Legal Aid Agreement With Spain Signed On 26 October 1990. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 4) (100)

Yeltsin 30 July Federal Law No. 102 Ratifying Agreement With Norway On Construction Of Housing For Servicemen Withdrawn From Baltic Countries. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 3) (100)

Yeltsin 1 August Edict No. 1128 Approving Appended Statute On Russian Federation Security Council Apparatus. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 4) (3500) (Text)

Yeltsin 1 August Edict No. 1133 Ordering Gubernatorial Election In Sakhalin Oblast In October/November. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 5) (300)

Yeltsin 1 August Edict No. 1134 Instructing Sakhalin Oblast Electoral Commission To Schedule And Conduct Oblast Legislature Election. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Aug 96 p 5) (300)

Yeltsin 3 August Directive No. 413 On Procedures For Handling And Coordinating Presidential Edicts In The Process Of Their Preparation, Approval, And Promulgation By Various Presidential Staff Organs. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 4) (400)

Yeltsin 5 August Edict No. 1138 'On Official Symbols Of Presidential Authority And Their Use At The Inauguration Of The Newly Elected President Of The Russian Federation.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 4) (400)

Federal Law No. 108 Of 6 August On Amendments, Additions To RSFSR Code Of Administrative Law Violations. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Aug 96 p 4) (3000)

SECTION III: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Government 18 July Directive No. 1152 On Russia's Joining UN AIDS Anti- HIV/AIDS Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 96 p 3) (200)

List Of 'Priority Avenues For The Development Of Science And Technology' And Of 'Federal-Level Critical Technologies' Approved By Chernomyrdin As Chairman Of Government Commission For Scientific And Technological Policy On 21 July, According To Government Decree No. 360 Of 17 April 1995 And Other Subsequent Government Decisions, Plus Unattributed Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Aug 96 p 6) (800/800)

Regional Affairs

Russia: Talks Between Chechen Separatists, Federal Forces Begin

LD1308091496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0835 GMT 13 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Kipkeyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — "At 1200 today a meeting between representatives of the federal command and the staff of the Chechen separatists began in the lowland part of Chechnya," the ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by telephone from Groznyy by Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of the federal grouping.

"The aim of the meeting is to decide the time and place of the forthcomig meeting between the commander of the grouping and Maskhadov, the militants' chief of staff," K. Pulikovskiy said.

Russia: Talks With Chechens To Resume in Seven Days in Dagestan

LD1208140996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Aug 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] INTERFAX has reported that agreement has reached on resuming talks in Makhachkala in seven days time. These talks will resolve issues of ending combat actions in Chechnya and commencing the withdrawal of federal forces from that republic. No state of emergency is to be introduced in Chechnya and this will be a guarantee of the observation of these accords.

Russia: Yandarbiyev Informed of Talks Between Lebed, Maskhadov

LD1208160596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1501 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, August 12 (Itar-Tass) — Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev on Monday was informed about the results of

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a meeting between Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed and rebel commander-in-chief Aslan Maskhadov on Sunday, a sources in the rebel headquarters told Itar-Tass.

The meeting produced a ceasefire agreement in Groznyy. Its implementation started at about 15:00 Moscow time (11:00 GMT) today.

According to the source, Yandarbiyev is expected to meet Maskhadov on Tuesday to thoroughly discuss the results of talks with Lebed.

More rebel units arrived in Groznyy on Monday. They destroyed five federal outposts on their way to the city. Thus, the number of Chechen separatists in Groznyy has reached five thousand, it said.

In the meantime, about 39 small rebel groups totalling 300 people are currently operating in and outside Groznyy, a trustworthy source in the federal command in Chechnya told Itar-Tass.

Russia: Maskhadov: Status Similar to Tatarstan's Would Suit Chechens

LD1208125296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1228 GMT 12 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — A status for Chechnya within Russia similar to Tatarstan's status would suit the Chechen opposition. This view was expressed in talks with Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in Chechnya, by Aslan Maskhadov, the armed formations' chief of staff.

Telling journalists about the talks he held yesterday on Chechen territory, Aleksandr Lebed said at today's news conference that Aslan Maskhadov also agrees with the formula "Russia can live without Chechnya, but Chechnya cannot live without Russia".

In line with its republican constitution Tatarstan is "a sovereign state and the subject of international law, associated with the Russian Federation — Russia on the basis of a treaty on the mutual delegation of powers and objects of jurisdiction."

Russia: Chechen Minister Says Yeltsin Can Stop War Within 24 Hours

LD1208170696 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1623 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Russian president can stop the war in Chechnya within 24 hours — all he has to do is to give the order to stop fire and pull out the troops," said Ruslan Chimayev, foreign minister of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, in an interview with the Moscow Echo radio station.

"The war is continuing because there are numerous contingents of Russian troops there and this is virtually producing new detachments of Chechen rebels," Chimayev thinks.

In his opinion, "if Moscow has some deep-seated reasons for continuing the war, no matter who the mediator is, he will not be able to remove these reasons."

"As soon as we remove the inner reasons for the war, it will stop by mutual agreement," Chimayev continued. "To suspect that the Chechens want the war is absurd. At present, we are forced to defend our very right to life."

Speaking about the OSCE mission in Groznyy, Chimayev said: "We realize that the mission is under a lot of pressure from Russia, but Tim Guldimann [head of the OSCE mission] is trying to show correctness towards the Russian side; he is very careful in these matters."

At the same time, Chimayev said the "optimism and energy of the head of the OSCE mission in organizing the meeting between Yeltsin and Yandarbiyev [leader of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria] cannot be overestimated."

Russia: Lebed: Yeltsin 'Could' Sign Edicts on Chechnya 13 Aug

MK1308121696 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 96 pp 1, 3

[Report by Ilya Maksakov: "A Cease-Fire Edict Is Ready for Signing, But the Absence of a Policy Line Could Thwart the Peace Process Again"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed, who replaced Oleg Lobov as representative of the Russian Federation president in Chechnya, finally made the long expected trip to the republic. It is only left to guess what course events would have taken had the general joined the settlement process earlier, but it is known that the separatist leaders pinned great hopes on Lebed. Be that as it may, on Monday night he met with Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov, on which Lebed briefed Boris Yeltsin yesterday. His proposals on a peace settlement on the whole received the president's support. No details of Lebed's meeting with Maskhadov are reported. It is only known that the parties in Novyye Atagy discussed the terms for a bilateral cease-fire and the withdrawal of separatist forces from Groznyy. According to Lebed's press secretary, Aleksandr Barkhatov, there was a constructive

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dialogue, the brevity of which was attributed not only to the pressure of time but also to the careful preparatory work. He said that the meeting was also attended by Yandarbiyev's information minister, Movladi Udugov; field commander Shirvani Basayev; Mufti of Chechnya Akhmet Khadzhi Kadyrov; and Russia's Muslims Union Chairman Nadyr Khachilayev. The latter apparently played not the least significant of roles in ensuring these negotiations.

Aslan Maskhadov was on the whole content with his meeting with Lebed. According to him the sides spoke in favor of "realistic and urgent" steps to stop the war in Chechnya. He did not rule out that the war in the republic could be stopped with Russia's interests kept fully intact. It was also reported that Lebed proposed a fundamentally new approach toward settling the crisis, to which Maskhadov agreed. Both participants in the dialogue found a common language "on 95 percent [of the issues]." [passage omitted]

Lebed was perhaps the first official representative to stand up for journalists, noting that the public had no full objective information while the press services of all the three power structures are silent, citing the lack of communications. In this respect the general gave "top grades" to the separatists' information minister, Movladi Udugov.

The general described his appointment as the president's representative in the Chechen Republic as an element of apparat games. While not opposing his new position, he is opposed to the way this was done. Nobody asked Lebed's consent; he himself learned about the appointment from his secretary. Nor does the general know who prepared the decisions, but he is sure that the authors sought to place him in a situation where he could "break his neck." Now Lebed has to accept the system of apparat work, and his impression of it is far from favorable. He saw that the [president's] representative has no staff; that the deputy of his predecessor Lobov is in Cyprus instead of Groznyy; that the security had all run away, and that there is not a single person in his workplace. And still, having accepted this responsibility, Lebed intends to take serious actions. He will try to find out where the multibillion [ruble] funds sent to Chechnya actually ended up; he will build a state system to direct the settlement process; and he will create a situation-assessment, decisionmaking, and logistics structure. Admitting that at present there is no more important problem for Russia than Chechnya, Lebed proposes organizing the operation of the Security Council on a permanent basis and setting up a kind of headquarters — a state council that could be based on the State Commission [for the Chechen Settlement] and should deal exclusively with economic matters. All military questions will be handled by the General Staff. Meanwhile, Lebed is seeking broad powers, including the right to make final decisions and to oversee their execution. The general said that on Tuesday Boris Yeltsin could sign an edict on measures to settle the crisis in Chechnya, which apparently was not prepared without Lebed's participation. [passage omitted]

Russia: Lebed Claims Chechnya Cease-Fire Already Begun

LD1208144396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1426 GMT 12 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — The process of a reciprocal cease-fire in Groznyy began at about 1500 today, Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council and special envoy of the Russian president to Chechnya, said at a news conference here devoted to the outcome of this trip to Chechnya on Sunday and his meeting there with Aslan Maskhadov, chief of the headquarters of separatist formations; Movladi Udugov, "minister of information" in the "separatist government", and field commander Shirvani Basayev. He said that this agreement was reached during that meeting.

Aleksandr Lebed said that during this meeting, the issue of Chechnya's future status was also discussed. "We reached the conclusion that in order for any status or any good intentions to be implemented, there first has to be a stop to the killing," the Russian head of state's special envoy to Chechnya noted. And in order for this to happen, he stressed, the opposing sides have first to be disengaged.

Russia: Lebed Discusses Cease-Fire, Rebel Withdrawal From Groznyy

MK1308094596 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Yuliya Kalinina: "Chechnya Has Waited for Lebed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy has already been in the separatists' hands for a week. Our losses are huge. According to the roughest estimates, there are about 200 killed, 700 wounded, and an unknown number of missing.

The president ordered the city cleared of gangsters. How can this be done? There still remain in Groznyy several thousand of our military people pinned down by rebel fighters at checkpoints and military headquarters — meaning that the city cannot be bombed from the

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air or thoroughly worked over by the artillery without killing them by the friendly fire. In the words of North Caucasus Military District Commander Anatoliy Kvashnin, there is only one way left — to let mobile anti-subversion groups into the city, which under the cover of armored vehicles will take "one block of buildings after another" and get entrenched there. This tactic is expected to make it possible to avoid high casualties among military people.

This means that the federal forces will not take Groznyy within the next few days. Apparently they are mainly bargaining on the fighters finally leaving of their own accord after their ammunition gives out rather than on our military might. Despite the fact that such a situation appears to be a show of weakness on the part of our command, in reality it demonstrates the sudden awakening of wisdom. The decision "not to be in a hurry and not to harm people" is good, because at least it lies on the same plane of arguments and actions on which the separatists act.

Indeed, they did not come to Groznyy to fight with the Joint Group of Federal Forces. Maskhadov said more than once that everybody realizes very well that it is impossible to manage the Russian military machine by force, one should not even try; therefore, one may only talk with Russia. At the same time, the separatists can manage by force another factor hostile to them — "national traitors who brought Russian troops into Chechnya and who now hide behind their back and steal 'rehabilitation' money and frustrate all talks with Russia." They have in mind the Zavgayevites (who are also Avturkhanovites, Khadzhiyevites, and other collaborators such as local militiamen and economic managers). It is in these people that the separatists see the main reason for which the war in Chechnya continues, and it is with them that they have come to deal.

Which is why the fighters walk in the city wearing masks. It is not TV cameras or the special services that they are afraid of. They are afraid of their own people. They do not want the relations of a Zavgayev supporter whom they kill to wage a blood feud against their own families.

For the sake of what, in this situation, should Russian military people come out and draw internecine fire? This is absolutely unnecessary. Let the Chechens argue it out among themselves and Russian politicians argue it out with those who remain alive.

The presidential plenipotentiary representative in Chechnya, General Lebed, seems to be acting on the same plane. Within 24 hours he managed to make a trip to Chechnya, come under fire, meet with Maskhadov, return to Moscow, and report his impressions to Yeltsin. It is known that the meeting discussed the terms of a bilateral cease-fire and a pullout of the fighters from Groznyy.

Yet another effort with regard to settling the situation was made by Premier Chernomyrdin. He ordered the Justice Ministry to consider, within three days, the possibility of introducing in Groznyy a "state of emergency." This initiative is somewhat out of keeping with today's realities in Chechnya. Firstly, before an emergency situation can be introduced, Groznyy should be cleared of fighters. Secondly, a corresponding presidential edict should be approved by the Federation Council, which is now in recess. Thirdly, there have long been in effect in Chechnya all the main attributes of an emergency situation: a curfew, patrols, housing and property searches, examinations of identity papers, the guarding of state and economic facilities, and strengthened "border" rules. Meetings and marches alone have not been banned. However, a ban on "street marches" can hardly prevent fighters from entering Groznyy.

The absence of a legally confirmed emergency situation is the last reason one can cite to explain the authorities' impotence in Chechnya. It is hardly wise to play this last card now. Should an emergency situation prove unable to keep fighters outside Groznyy, the authorities would have to learn how to tell tales about magic hats, flying carpets, and other devices the perfidious Chechens have but the impoverished army, unfortunately, does not.

Russia: Lebed: Stop Using Troops as Cannon Fodder in Chechnya

LD1208140896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1217 GMT 12 Aug 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (ITAR-TASS) — Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed considers that one of the main conclusions which can be drawn from his trip to Chechnya is the "acute need for development of the armed forces and other power structures." Speaking today at a news conference on his trip to Chechnya, Aleksandr Lebed announced that he "toured many population centers and federal forces' roadblocks", and met with Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the separatists' armed formations; Movladi Udugov, "minister of information" in the separatists' "government"; and also Shamil Basayev's younger brother Shirvani.

"I thought things were not brilliant in the fighters' camp but I did not think they were that bad," Aleksandr Lebed said.

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He said he intends "draw in full" the conclusions from his trip at the next session of the Russian Federation Security Council. But, he said, "one of the main conclusions can be drawn already: There is currently an acute need for development of the armed forces and other power structures."

Sharing his observations of his trip, Lebed expressed the opinion that servicemen fighting in Chechnya "as regards equipment cannot represent the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs".

"The partisans in the Great Patriotic War were better dressed," Lebed pointed out. "Apart from that, I must note," he continued, "that the Russian Federation armed forces' rear has lost the right to be called a rear." He described the situation as regards rear back-up as "mockery of people". In Lebed's words, "it is time to make decisions to help the withdrawal of these groups of federal forces and not use them as cannon fodder."

Speaking about the mood of the federal forces, Lebed noted the "apathy and tiredness of the soldiers", as well as their low morale.

Replying to reproaches directed at him that he has allegedly done very little to resolve the Chechen problem, Lebed said that this lack of activity is only a perceived one. "I think that it is impossible to set about some kind of program of settlement in Chechnya without making a serious and in-depth analysis of the situation," he stated. He said that "in a year and a half of war no mechanism for resolving the crisis or systems for making decisions and monitoring their implementation have been created."

Aleksandr Lebed stated that the State Commission for a settlement in Chechnya "has not carried out its task." "There has been no progress, either in the political, economic, or military fields," he noted, having stressed that "there are quite a few reasons for that."

The authorized representative of the Russian Federation president in Chechnya is opposed to introducing a state of emergency in the republic. Lebed said that one of the reasons affecting the conflict is "the financing of the armed opposition in Chechnya from legal and illegal sources" in particular. "The imperfect nature of the Russian financial system has allowed and is allowing federal money to be used for the needs of the armed fighters," Lebed noted. "Money is being spent, with the tacit consent of Chechnya's government, for purposes for which it was not intended," he asserted. Besides this, Lebed continued, "we still do not have complete and objective information about the events in the republic and no objective analysis of the situation has been made."

Aleksandr Lebed placed hope in the appointment of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister and in the formation of a new Russian Government. In this connection he expressed hope that "things will get moving."

Russia: Lebed Opposes Imposing Emergency Rule in Chechnya

LD1208122396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1208 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Aug 12 (INTERFAX) — Secretary of the Russian Security Council Aleksandr Lebed on Monday spoke of being categorically opposed to the introduction of a state of emergency in the breakaway republic of Chechnya.

"My own attitude to the proposal on imposing a state of emergency is highly negative," he said, adding there was no one to enforce the measure and nobody or nothing to maintain it with.

Russia: Lebed Against Labeling Chechen Opposition as Criminals

LD1208160296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1449 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 12 (Interfax) — Aleksandr Lebed, Russian Security Council secretary and presidential envoy in Chechnya, does not consider the Chechen separatist leadership as "criminals."

The idea of declaring Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, rebel forces commander Aslan Maskhadov and Press Minister in the separatists' government Movladi Udugov as wanted by the police was "planted by (Moscow-backed) Head of Chechnya Doku Zavgayev" and approved hastily, he told a news conference in Moscow on Monday.

During his trip to Chechnya, Lebed held talks with the separatists' representatives, including Maskhadov and Udugov.

The prosecutor general should clarify this matter and submit documentation on declaring these representatives of the armed Chechen opposition as wanted by the police "as criminals," Lebed said, adding that the Russian Prosecutor General's Office had not so far turned in such documents.

He also spoke out against scornful labels put on Chechen separatist troops not only by the media but also by Russian statesmen and military officials.

"Chechens were and remain outstanding soldiers. One should know his (country's) history. Russia failed to defeat Chechens by force during the last century.

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Diplomacy reconciled (Russia and Chechens). That is the way (we) should act now," Lebed said.

When asked if Zavgayev had control of the situation in Chechnya, Lebed gave a negative answer. "Zavgayev is sitting in Khankala (on the outskirts of the Chechen capital of Groznyy) and his powers do not go beyond the airfield (in Khankala)," he said.

Regarding his statement that Chechnya could be satisfied with a status similar to that of the internal Russian republic of Tatarstan, Lebed said he thought so after talking to Chechen rebel forces commander Aslan Maskhadov.

However, this might be "Gen. Maskhadov's personal opinion," Lebed said, adding that "Maskhadov is not a politician but the head of the armed Chechen formations' chief staff."

Maskhadov "has no political powers. He's just a general," Lebed said.

Russia: Duma Official Criticizes Lebed Stand on Chechen Issue

LD1208160996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 12 (Interfax) — Maj. Gen. Nikolay Bezborodov, deputy chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee and head of a task force in the State Commission for Chechen Settlement, has criticized the stand taken by Russian Security Council secretary Aleksandr Lebed.

After returning from the breakaway Russian republic, Lebed told a news conference on Monday that he was against introducing a state of emergency on Chechen territory.

Bezborodov said he deemed it "absolutely necessary" to introduce a state of emergency in Chechnya.

"It can no longer be tolerated that the situation looks as though there is no war in Chechnya de jure while the war there has been under way for more than 1.5 years de facto," he said.

The introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya proposed by the State Duma on Saturday "will help not only establish some legal scope of developments in Chechnya but also stabilize the situation to some extent," Bezborodov said.

Regarding Lebed's criticism of the State Commission for Chechen Settlement, the MP said this statement was made "too hastily."

"Before evaluating the state commission's performance, the Security Council's secretary should have found out which tasks the Russian president set before the commission and to what extent they have been implemented. Lebed should have tried to understand why the commission's performance turned out to be less effective than (we) would like it to be," Bezborodov said.

Russia: Lebed's Efforts Toward Peace in Chechnya Viewed

MM1308104696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Gavrilenko and Anatoliy Stasovskiy: "Bloody Fighting Continues in Groznyy. Aleksandr Lebed's Flying Visit to Chechnya Raises Hopes of Speedy Resolution of Conflict"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Chechnya remains very complex. The subject of the conflict is at the center of attention of politicians, the press.... And it is entirely understandable that Boris Yeltsin began his second term as president by signing a package of "Chechen edicts." Has there been any other instance in history when a head of state, following his triumphal inauguration, has embarked on his duties by announcing a period of nationwide mourning?

The appointment as the Russian Federation president's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic of Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council and the Russian Federation president's national security adviser, was a logical step by the president toward resolving the Chechnya conflict. This appointment had been expected both in Moscow and, clearly, in Chechnya. Chechen separatist leaders had spoken in those terms. This is shown by the rapid establishment of contacts between Aleksandr Lebed and Aslan Maskhadov, leader of the guerrillas' main staff. According to a report from the Russian Federation Security Council Press Service, on the night of 12 August Aleksandr Lebed held talks with Maskhadov and Movladi Udugov, the Republic of Ichkeria information minister, in the settlement of Staryye Atagi. The main issue at the talks with the separatist leaders was a discussion of the terms for a bilateral cease-fire and the withdrawal of the gunmen from Groznyy. The press service stressed that it was a constructive dialogue. It was also noted that the briefness of the meeting was due not only to time being short — since blood continues to be shed — but also to the painstaking preparations for it.

By lunchtime yesterday Lebed had already returned to Moscow and was received by the president. On the basis of the results of the meeting the Russian Federation Security Council secretary announced at a press conference that a Russian Federation presidential

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edict on measures to settle the Chechnya crisis had been drawn up envisaging the creation of an integrated state system for resolving the conflict.

This edict, Aleksandr Lebed announced, is based on the model for settling the Chechnya crisis which he prepared. According to him, an integrated state system for setting the conflict should be drawn up. First and foremost, this system should envisage an assessment of the situation by the permanent members of the Russian Federation Security Council. Aleksandr Lebed called the second element of this system a "structure of material and technical support for which federal departments must be responsible." The third element is a "command and control structure for the force component in settling the crisis." The Armed Forces General Staff should be responsible for this component, Lebed believes. In the opinion of the Security Council secretary, the General Staff should take control of the uncoordinated formations of federal forces.

But so far there is only cautious optimism that it will at least be possible to stop the bloodshed. After all, there remains a very great danger that for the umpteenth time the main burden of settling the conflict will be shouldered by virtually one man. This time Aleksandr Lebed. Even knowing his strong character and determination, it is hard to hope that everything will go smoothly. And not only because, as the old saying has it, "one man can't win a war." It is more a question of something else — of the notorious fall-guy mentality which is so widespread in our country.

We should recall recent days, as it becomes clear that it is the military who are going to be blamed for the umpteenth time. As are, for the first time, Army General Anatoliy Kulikov, internal affairs minister, and Lieutenant General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, commander of the Russian Federation Temporary Joint Forces in Chechnya....

But things will be even harder for Aleksandr Lebed. Because of the attitude toward him in society a great deal is expected of him. Perhaps, strange as it may sound, the separatists are also expecting something from him. After all, he is a new man, with new views.... Perhaps they will be able to get something out of him or at least confuse everything once again to their own advantage. This is a natural conclusion if you recall how all the talks with separatists (at every level) have ended. Whatever they said, whatever they signed, and whomever they met with, their aim has always been and continues to be the same — to secure the conditions for successful opposition to the federal authorities and troops.

That, I think, is why Aslan Maskhadov is finding it so easy to destroy all the negotiating work that has been built up and why he is hinting that he himself is actually running the current operations in Groznyy, Gudermes, and Kurchaloy.... In a phone call carried on NTV, he directly stated that by its action in Groznyy the armed opposition had shown yet again that the gunmen are not "uncoordinated small groups but combat-capable and well-armed detachments" and can control the situation in any part of Chechnya. Maskhadov is in no way embarrassed by the fact that such statements could do away with his role as a partner in talks. He is continuing to make statements on a "global scale." For instance, following his meeting with Aleksandr Lebed, Maskhadov has promised for the umpteenth time that Russia's interests will be precisely observed in resolving the Chechnya conflict. That is familiar language. We have heard such things many times both from Maskhadov and from other separatist leaders. Meanwhile, the bloodshed continues unabated.

Indeed, is it not time to nonetheless decide once and for all whom we should be negotiating with in Chechnya? Aslan Maskhadov's appearance in the company of the Security Council secretary and the Russian Federation president's national security adviser seems once again to legitimize him. But, at the same time, we have no doubt that he will once again be upholding the interests of the armed bandit formations.

The 12 August decision by Gen. Pulikovskiy, commander of the Russian Federation Temporary Joint Forces in Chechnya, to stop using air power in the battles for Groznyy was probably a good present to the separatists. The commander gave this order, according to an ITAR-TASS report, to avoid excessive casualties and with regard to the operational situation. And, despite the fact that this decision is in no way being linked to the meeting between Aleksandr Lebed and Aslan Maskhadov, we can assume that there was a connection. Clearly, the commander does not want to find himself between a rock and a hard place. There have been no political decisions, nor has there been a strictly defined group of people taking part in the talks. The general's headache is to end the casualties among the civilian population and, not least, to reduce the losses among the officers and men under his command. Under these circumstances, just try avoiding being a target of the deafening criticism of the military operations in the Chechen Republic.

The confusion in the politicians' minds is resulting in a lack of confidence in the operations by the military. Groznyy in January 1995 and in March and now August 1996 is confirmation of that.

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Russia: State of Emergency in Chechnya Dismissed as 'Shamming'

MM1308110096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Aug 96 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Stepan Kiselev: "Why Did the Federal Forces Need a State of Emergency"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week, explaining to deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly why Chechen gunmen were able without particular difficulty to take Groznyy, Minister of Internal Affairs Anatoliy Kulikov cited two reasons. First, the general said, Groznyy is living the life of an ordinary city, but in order to prevent gunmen from entering it, a state of emergency is needed. The second reason cited by the minister is even more preposterous: The Kremlin has lost the information war to the separatists, since Chechnya's chief propagandist Movladi Udugov works better than the entire CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] Central Committee Information Department.

The actions of the high-ranking functionaries responsible for everything that is going on in Chechnya today increasingly remind one of the ways and manners of the folk on Staraya Ploshchad [former CPSU Central Committee headquarters]. For several days now state television has been displaying to us the same cowardice, incompetence, and unquenchable passion for lying for which the Communists were formerly so renowned. Today's functionaries manage to imitate the Communists particularly well in searching for the "objective causes of temporary difficulties." And in this respect General Kulikov is no exception. In heaping the blame for the internal troops' shameful defeat on the absence of a state of emergency in Groznyy, the minister both ducked criticism himself, and suggested a way for others to wriggle off the hook.

And all at once everyone started talking about a state of emergency. The State Duma recommended to the president that he introduce a state of emergency in Groznyy, and the government instructed the Ministry of Justice to draw up the appropriate edict within three days. Everyone found themselves busy. However, let us ask ourselves the question: How would a state of emergency actually help the federal forces to defeat the "evil Chechen"?

First, let me recall that states of emergency are regulated by the Constitution and the federal laws "On Security" and "On the State of Emergency" adopted in spring 1991 by the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet. Under the Constitution a state of emergency is introduced by presidential edict, "immediately announced" to the Federal Assembly (Article 88), and subsequently confirmed by the Federation Council (Article 102).

Now for what happens on a territory on which a state of emergency has been introduced. Obviously "special forms of administration" are introduced and the state organs carrying out that administration can be vested with extraordinary powers. The authorities are entitled to adopt extraordinary measures, which "may entail the temporary restriction of civil rights and freedoms." However (N.B.!), "the rights and freedoms stipulated under Articles 20, 21, 23 (Part One), 24, 28, 34 (Part One), 40 (Part One), and 46-54 of the Russian Federation Constitution are not liable to restriction." The rights that cannot be violated even in conditions of a state of emergency are these:

1. Everyone has the right to life.

2. The dignity of the individual is protected by the state.
3. Everyone has the right to undisturbed privacy.
4. Everyone is guaranteed freedom of conscience.
5. Everyone has the right to housing.

With regard to the inhabitants of Groznyy, these lines in the Constitution read like the mockery of a doctor who diagnoses a patient as having a cold three days after his funeral. I think it obvious that it is not for the sake of observing these civil rights that Minister Kulikov is fretting about introducing a state of emergency. So let us read the laws further.

In a period of a state of emergency the following measures can be established:

a) special regulations governing entering and leaving the territory, and also restrictions on the freedom of movement;

b) stricter public order regulations;

c) a ban on the holding of assemblies, rallies, street processions, and demonstrations;

d) a ban on strikes;

e) restrictions on the use of transport and the inspection of vehicles;

If this were suddenly deemed insufficient to pacify irreconcilable separatists, it would be possible:

a) to introduce a curfew;

b) to restrict press freedom;

c) to suspend political parties;

d) to check documents in places where citizens congregate;

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e) in exceptional cases, in the presence of information that a citizen is carrying a weapon, to carry out a personal search of that citizen and to search his belongings, home, and vehicle. Of course, under a state of emergency "restrictions or a ban on the sale of weapons are introduced."

But now just let anyone try to guess which of the measures listed above Minister of Internal Affairs Kulikov lacks for final victory over Dudayev's supporters. Analysis of the legislation suggests that a "de jure state of emergency" is far milder and softer than the "de facto state of emergency" that has been established by the federal forces in Chechnya. On the other hand, if you credit the reports from Groznyy, it is not President Yeltsin but the gunman Basayev who is capable of establishing a state of emergency in Groznyy today. And that means the cause of the military disgrace is not a state of emergency, or, to be more exact, the absence of one.

In vexing himself about a state of emergency Anatoliy Kulikov is only shamming that he knows a way out of the situation. Just as the military are shamming war, the state mass media are shamming objective information, the special commission is shamming negotiations, and the government is shamming mourning. All in the traditions of the CPSU Central Committee. And only the gunmen are fighting seriously. And, so far, winning....

Russia: Military Receiving 'Conflicting Guidance' on Chechnya

MK1308114196 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "Military" rubric: "The General Staff To Command Combat Operations in Chechnya, If So Ordered. The Use of Aviation in Groznyy Depends on the Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Lebed's statement to the effect that, according to a new Chechen settlement concept, "all isolated units" will come under the command of the General Staff has elicited certain astonishment at the Defense Ministry. The current legislation does not provide for the use of the Armed Forces to carry out large-scale combat operations on their own territory and against their own rebellious citizens. At present, under a presidential edict, general command and coordination of combat operations in Chechnya is exercised by Army General Anatoliy Kulikov, Russian minister of internal affairs, while his deputy, Colonel General Golubets, is in command on the ground, in Groznyy.

In principle, the Defense Ministry would like to continue implementing Boris Yeltsin's edict with regard to troop withdrawal, stopping short of engaging in yet more battles. A high-ranking representative of the General Staff told your SEGODNYA correspondent yesterday that he does not known whether the statement that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin made on Sunday to the effect that the group of federal forces should be reinforced applies to the Defense Ministry: "No one has yet tasked us with building up our group of forces. Probably this applies to the Internal Affairs Ministry."

Yet if the decision to resubordinate all the power agencies operating in Chechnya to the General Staff, as envisioned by Mr. Lebed's new plan, is formalized by corresponding legislation, the military will comply with it. "If we are able to give orders that will be binding on all on behalf of the supreme commander in chief, without having to waste time on seeking other agencies' consent and approval, the speed of implementing the necessary decisions will undoubtedly increase," the same high-ranking General Staff official told your SEGODNYA correspondent yesterday.

The former troop command and control system in Chechnya proved to be fully untenable. The entire republic was divided into areas of responsibility, the city of Groznyy belonging to the Internal Affairs Ministry. All the intelligence services of the Defense Ministry, the Federal Security Service, and the Internal Affairs Ministry predicted an upcoming rebel attack on Groznyy. The Internal Affairs Ministry forces were planning to take operational countermeasures, but evidently the rebels preempted them, capitalizing on leaks. By the beginning of the fighting there were 7,500 Internal Affairs Ministry servicemen and officers (including ethnic Chechens) in Groznyy, but the rebels managed to pin them down at checkpoints and locations of their permanent deployment by shooting at them, while not attempting to attack them in earnest. As a result, when the rebels launched an assault on the set of government buildings in the center of Groznyy, troops from Khankala and Severnyy had to break through to their rescue, because before that the Defense Ministry forces there were limited to just one platoon and one company.

Currently about 1,000 servicemen of the Defense Ministry are fighting in Groznyy. But precisely they have to engage in the bloodiest battles. According to the General Staff, as of the morning of 12 August, the Defense Ministry accounts for 90 of the 155 servicemen dead and 275 of the 553 wounded. The number of MIA's varies from 25 to 30 as the fates of some of the missing servicemen are cleared up. Yet, the lists of casualties change constantly.

General Staff officers think that initially 23 Chechen combat groups with a combined strength of 500 men entered Groznyy. They had good communications equip-

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ment that cannot be put out of order by the Russian army's authorized electronic jamming equipment. Once in the city, the rebels have at least doubled their strength thanks to reinforcements from among local residents. Currently the General Staff estimates the strength of the enemy at 1,000 men. Naturally, the Chechens have also sustained heavy casualties during the fighting in Groznyy, but no one at the General Staff ventures to guess what specific figures might be in the absence of reliable information.

Army and front-level aviation will still be used in Chechnya "in accordance with the situation." No special bans on using aviation in Groznyy have been imposed. Currently, the main objective of the Air Force is to isolate, if possible, the battlefield in the center of Groznyy and "to cut the rebels' supply channels." For this reason air strikes will target mainly Groznyy's suburbs. Yet the General Staff officers expect the rebels to leave the city before long because they cannot seize the government district anyway, whereas it makes no sense to sustain further casualties in street fighting.

After the end of the battle in Groznyy the army plans to continue active operations "to destroy the intransigent groups," although no one hopes that a classic pursuit of the retreating enemy could be organized. Furthermore, the conflicting guidance coming from Messrs. Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin, and Lebed still prevents the military from making any serious plans.

Russia: Aide Denies Army-MVD 'Contradictions' in Chechnya

MM1308075696 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Igor Andreyev: "Servicemen Killed in Chechnya Should Be Named"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A tragedy has occurred in Groznyy, but we should not jump to conclusions and look for a fall guy. We need to investigate what has happened, and we will do so. That is the opinion of Defense Minister Igor Rodionov, according to Nikolay Burbyga, chief of a Defense Ministry directorate.

N. Burbyga added for his own part that, contrary to the widespread view, there are no contradictions between the Army and the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] subunits in Chechnya. There has been a lack of coordination of operations in carrying out basically different missions. The directorate chief believes that the nondisclosure of the Armed Forces' true losses in the mutinous republic is a mistake and a product of old ideas of what the public should and should not be told. In his view, the dead should be named.

Russia: Chechen Opposition Claims Control of 80 Percent of Groznyy

LD1308084396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0736 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Aug 13 (Interfax) — Chechen rebels were in control of 80 percent of territory in Groznyy Tuesday morning, a spokesman for the central separatist command post told Interfax.

According to him, fighting in the city became less fierce and intensive on Tuesday.

The spokesman claims that federal aircraft resumed strikes on the center of the city and on its suburbs Tuesday morning. The rebel command has no exact information as to civilian casualties; however "it can be said that hundreds of people were killed or wounded," he added.

Clashes between the rebels and federal forces continued Tuesday morning along the two main routes for federal armored vehicles attempting to reach the center of Groznyy-east Groznyy near Michurin village, and north Groznyy from Severnyy airport.

Sporadic clashes are going on in Groznyy's Staropromyslovskiy and Oktyabrskiy districts, and in the southwestern suburb of Chernorechye.

Russia: North Caucasus Commander Assesses Chechnya Situation

LD1308115596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Aug 97

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everything is calm at Khankala today. The federal command headquarters has not yet reported new figures about losses in the city of Groznyy. [Video shows correspondent standing at base with trucks in the background and a distant column of smoke, helicopter landing at base]

Meanwhile, Cargo-200 [reference to transportation of dead bodies] continues to leave for the main part of Russia. And last night separatists attempted to approach the military base. In an interview for the Vesti program, Col-Gen Anatoliy Kvashnin, commander of the North Caucasus Military District, commented on the present situation. [Video shows Kvashnin and other officers at military base]

[Begin recording] [Kvashnin] The situation is controllable.

[Correspondent Sergey Zenin] Where are battles going on?

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[Kvashnin] There aren't any battles, as such, going on anywhere. There are just small skirmishes. The rebels have change tactics since their political actions of overthrowing the government and hoisting their green Ichkerian flag have failed. In short, it's all in our hands.

[Zenin] What are the federal troops' next actions?

[Kvashnin] The next actions are this: the bandits, and I mean the real bandits who are continuing active resistance and so on, should, naturally, either be arrested or, if they are not arrested and they continue active resistance, destroyed; and that's that. [end recording]

[Zenin] It probably won't be that easy to arrest the separatists. Russian convoys in the center of Groznyy are coming under fire. [Video shows armored vehicle on street and gun being fired from window. Zenin sitting writing inside building]

Several districts of the republic remain tense. Today we finally managed to find out what state the district military commandants' offices are in. Dineyev, military commissar of the Chechen Republic, gave his first interview during the present fighting to our program. [Video shows servicemen and interview with Dineyev]

[Begin recording] [Zenin] Are any military commandants' offices surrounded at the moment?

[Dineyev] We don't have any contact at the moment with and we still haven't verified information on the Gudermes military commandant's office. It is even being said that it has been burned down. [end recording]

Russia: Correspondent Reports on Groznyy Situation

MM1208193496 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Aug 96 pp 1,2

[Report by special correspondent Sergey Kolesnikov: "City in Flames"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Groznyy, 12 Aug — Throughout the night of 8-9 August Khankala was living in expectation of a possible attack. This place, where the command of the joint grouping is located, will evidently be the "focus of attention" for the gunmen for a long time yet. They have already made one attempt, but were forced to retreat. At the railroad station here two tank cars containing fuel oil and one passenger car were set on fire during the exchanges of gunfire. For the fourth straight day Khankala has been enveloped in thick black smoke. It is clear from radio intercepts that the bandits are not losing hope of trying to take the military base. The day before, helicopter reconnaissance discovered around 40 armed men in the forest tracts in the Khankala area. The gang was destroyed by air strikes.

Moving around Groznyy is very difficult. The gunmen have mined the main routes and laid ambushes at crossroads and in the destroyed buildings along the roads. The situation is very difficult. An armored personnel carrier of the 101st brigade, which was proceeding to give support to servicemen who had been ambushed, was subjected to firing by grenade launcher in the area of Minutka Square. When it had become obvious that it would not be possible to break through, and furthermore, there were casualties in the armed personnel carrier, the driver, whose name is Aleksey, was able to carry out a diversionary maneuver among the twisted equipment and withdraw in the direction of the Khankala command post.

The servicemen who are cut off by the gunmen in the central part of the city are still in a very grave position. We know from walkie-talkie conversations that there are casualties among those defending themselves, but unfortunately at the moment it is not possible to come to their aid. The firing in the center is so dense that any attempt would turn into further casualties. It has proved possible to reach and withdraw the wounded from one target in Chernorechyye. Fighters from the Chechen OMON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] have helped our servicemen here.

Colonel General Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the internal troops, has arrived in Groznyy to coordinate actions.

The military believe that the situation is also being stirred up by certain news agency reports. Thus the Vesti program informed the public that the internal troops servicemen cut off in the city are giving up their weapons and giving themselves up. And although in a repeat broadcast the newsreader apologized for the "tragic slip of the tongue," all this is nevertheless generating irritation among the officers and men.

For the fourth day servicemen from the 101st brigade of internal troops and fighters from the Yaroslavl OMON are keeping checkpoint No. 13 from falling. They are cut off, and two-thirds of the defenders are wounded or contused. Unfortunately, at the time this report was transmitted to the editorial office, the maneuvering forces were unable to free the checkpoint. The gunmen have already called for the men to lay down their arms and give up three times, but no one has done so.

For several days now servicemen from the Volga District internal troops brigade have been conducting defensive fighting in the area of Minutka Square. Some men have also been wounded there, and possibly some

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have been killed; communications with the subunit are not always reliable. The guys are suffering a lack of food and water, but none of them have left their positions.

As far as the losses on our side are concerned, these are very tangible and painful. In four days' fighting the internal troops alone have had 54 men killed and 272 wounded, and 74 servicemen are missing.

The terrible cargo of bodybags is generally being dispatched from Khankala to Severnyy airfield, and from there to Rostov and Vladikavkaz. I was flying with this sad cargo to Severnyy on a Mi-8 helicopter which only a few days ago had come under heavy fire by the gunmen. Apart from the Army, Northwestern District internal troops servicemen and OMON members are performing service here. You can see that many of them are irritated, and the reason is once again an unverified report by a television journalist on a program to the effect that Severnyy has been taken by the gunmen.

"And where are we, then?" they say angrily. "Our families are watching these programs and are on tenterhooks..."

Yes, it is hard in Severnyy. The airport is constantly being fired at by the gunmen encircling it. Before my very eyes a helicopter which was taking off was shot down. Fortunately, the pilots were miraculously able to land the helicopter, which had not burst into flames in mid-air. One of the pilots was wounded during the firing. He was immediately taken from the airfield to the local military hospital.

Wounded people are streaming into the hospital. Several teams of doctors are almost rushed off their feet trying to operate on and bandage the wounded. There is no electricity, and the doctors do their job by lamplight.

Meanwhile other medics are engaged in evacuating wounded people to "the mainland." [passage omitted]

Russia: Separatists Attack Russian Military Base Near Groznyy

LD1208165396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Aug 12 (Interfax) — A group of Chechen separatist militants tonight launched a surprise attack on the Russian central military base in Khankala on the outskirts of the Chechen capital of Groznyy.

Separatist militants on the northern and western outskirts of Khankala opened fire from automatic weapons and grenade launchers at the same time at around 8:00 p.m. [1600 GMT] Monday, a representative of the Russian joint command staff told Interfax.

Separatist militants are firing at checkpoints around the military base, the same source said.

The firing at the Russian base has been intensified, the same source said, adding that several Russian military units had been sent in to suppress the militants.

The source said it was difficult to assess the situation on the Russian military base in Khankala at present.

Russian troops are currently trying to rebuff the attack, the same source said.

Russia: Police Seize 'Secret' Explosive Cache in Southern Town

LD1208161496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 12 Aug 96

[By Viktor Zhilyakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNODAR, August 12 (Itar-Tass) — Police found a secret cache containing 190 kilos of TNT in the town Yeysk, southern Russia, on Monday.

Police also detained two servicemen who had been stealing explosives from military depots and selling them for a long time.

Local law enforcement officials noted that this was the largest amount of TNT seized by police in the Krasnodar region.

Experts say that several hundred grams of TNT would be enough to carry out a terrorist act.

Russia: Bomb Explodes in Dagestan Republic's Capital

LD1308093396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0910 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MAKHACHKALA, Aug 13 (Interfax) — An explosion occurred at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday on Sinyavin Street, not far from the center of Makhachkala, Dagestan's Interior Ministry told Interfax.

A woman passer-by was injured. She was taken to hospital. The shock wave blew out the windows in apartment blocks. Representatives of the Dagestani Interior Ministry, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) and Prosecutor-General's Office are investigating the incident.

An hour before the explosion, a man who did not name himself called the Dagestani state police to report that an explosive device had been planted in a sewage hole in Sinyavin Street. A group of policemen arrived at the place after the device had exploded.

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On Tuesday, Dagestani state police received another anonymous call which said that an explosive device had been planted in Makhachkala's bus terminal. Interior Ministry and FSB experts are currently working in the bus terminal.

Local observers say that the explosion in Makhachkala might be a response by certain forces to Secretary of the Russian Security Council Aleksandr Lebed's trip to Chechnya, or a warning to the local authorities, whose interference in the settlement of the Chechen conflict is opposed.

Russia: 'Chechen Connection' Not Ruled Out in Volgograd Train Blast

MM1308080296 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Igor Tsarev: "Another Bomb on Train 606"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Another act of terrorism occurred yesterday near Volgograd. It was early in the morning. The passengers on train 606 from Astrakhan were still fast asleep when it arrived at Trubnaya Station. Suddenly there was an explosion underneath the second car. The station clock showed 0515. [passage omitted]

Since the same conductors who were working during the 25 July blast were on this train as well, specialists are not ruling out the possibility that personal revenge could have been a motive for the crime.

Nor is the Federal Security Service ruling out a "Chechen connection."

One way or another this attention shown by criminals to the same train requires an explanation.

According to information obtained in Volgograd, yesterday's incident had a different "signature" from the previous one. This time the bomb — preliminary estimates put it at 500-1,000 grams of TNT — was attached to the generator underneath the car.

The bomb exploded when the train had just moved off from Trubnaya Station. The train was not derailed. But specialists are noting that if the bomb had gone off when the train was at speed, the number of casualties would have been higher.

Economic Issues

Russia: Duma Committee Chairman Interviewed on Finances, Tax Law

LD1208180396 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian, Aug 96 No 32 (Signed to press 6 August 1996) p 3

[Interview with Pavel Bunich, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Property, Privatization, and Economic Activity, by Valeriy Virkunen; place and date not given; under the column entitled: "Russians Have $30 Billion in Cash: Pavel Bunich: I Do Not Believe Those Who Warn of Catastrophe'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The political uncertainty has ended with Boris Yeltsin's election. How might events now develop? What can people expect from the new authorities? Many politicians do not see stabilization in the foreseeable future, even less, an improvement and they forecast endless upheaval. Pavel Bunich, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Property, Privatization, and Economic Activity, gives his thoughts on this.

[Virkunen] Do you expect a revival in the economy and will the long-awaited upswing begin soon?

[Bunich] If we had not had the election, then there would definitely have been growth of 2-3 percent. The election knocked us off course. It required incredible state financial expenditure. It caused entrepreneurs to miss opportunities: They were frozen in expectation for a whole six months and currency was rushed to the West. Investment as a whole fell about 20 percent. Industrial output fell 8 percent.

However, that is what political elections cost. I would say the current head of the country is a politician who came first, ahead of the economy. Expensive? Yes. But the victory of market policies is worth the price. Now with the third election in a short period of time (for the Duma, the presidency, and local power) we are again faced with significant expenditure. Money was not spent when the members of the current Duma were elected. The left-wing won a majority, so we will have to fork out for the local elections.

[Virkunen] What do you think are the prospects for Russian investment?

[Bunich] I am surprised when people say we have no money. The population has at least $30 billion in cash. There are also banks, enterprises, and the money that has fled Russia.

[Virkunen] The Central Bank has named a rather smaller sum — around $20 billion.

[Bunich] The Central Bank also reports that the population has invested at least $16 billion in ruble currency during recent months. This is addition to the 20 billion which was already stashed away under mattresses. The second reserve is the ruble deposits of citizens and enterprises.

Foreigners buying short-term state bonds may also bring large amounts of funds into the treasury. After all, they

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could not dream of selling these securities, even with a return of 19 percent, in their own countries. Moreover, from 15 August foreigners are allowed to operate in short-term state bonds on the secondary market, that means they can sell them without waiting for their official term to expire. Foreigners are expected to invest the ruble equivalent of around $1 billion in short-term state bonds in August alone.

The elections left the banks in a state of suspended animation. Their activity, particularly as regards medium and long-term loans was virtually paralyzed. Who will grant loans if they do not know what the political policies will be tomorrow? All money went on super-short-term loans. The same applied to investors who did not invest money in the banks but, on the contrary, withdrew it and changed it into foreign currency.

The failure to repay loans, the withdrawal of deposits, the speedy presentation of bank promissory notes, continued investment in expensive offices, and the increase in the reserve requirements of the Central Bank have rocked a large number of commercial banks. Dirty competition methods have also had an effect — false reports capable of undermining any bank have appeared in the mass media.

[Virkunen] I think you are rather overestimating the capabilities of the press. The Chase Manhatten Bank could not be broken, even with the aid of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

[Bunich] I am not claiming that the Inkombank was completely clean, but it was not the most criminal bank. The majority are like it. It is not that we have a very strong press, but rather a too alarming and unstable situation with deposits, money, banks, and finance. People were badly burned by dishonest companies and now any even obviously absurd remark inevitably causes panic. If I made statements in the press today, particularly in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, against Inkombank, frightened clients would storm all the departments and branches of the bank tomorrow. The mass media should be unusually accurate in banking matters, but this alone is not enough. Other measures are needed as well, particularly authoritative guarantees. I liked what Yuriy Luzhkov did here. He took a risk and said: "Inkombank is a good bank and do not believe people who say the reverse." That is something which not everyone would have done.

[Virkunen] But there are $1.5 million in the Moscow coffers for the recent period alone — this is something Inkombank has done.

[Bunich] Yes, of course, for the Christ the Savior Church and the Moscow mayor could have received it all and said nothing in response. Perhaps if rumors and false information appear, appropriate official statements by the Central Bank should follow immediately. The Central Bank must take all possible measures to prevent panic and the collapse of any commercial bank, especially a major one.

I spoke to some German bankers and asked how they manage to prevent noisy banking scandals and bankruptcies. They answered that there are employees of the federal security service in each major credit establishment where large sums of money circulate. If trouble approaches, they report this to the appropriate party in good time. We do not have such employees, so bankruptcy or the withdrawal of licenses is always completely unexpected for the clients of our banks.

[Virkunen] If the banks are just getting by, are they spending money on long-term investment? Where are the guarantees of a return?

[Bunich] Unfortunately, a law on mortgages — credit secured on property — has not been adopted yet. No one will give long-term credit without security. Land represents the best bet for a mortgage. With land as the security, even today it is in theory possible to take out a large loan for a long period with the lowest of interest rates. After all, land cannot lose its value — it is not at the mercy of inflation. You cannot take it to another country; you cannot make off with it. But deputies heard the draft law and buried it. We will present it again in October.

[Virkunen] Who objected most loudly to the law on mortgages?

[Bunich] The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia faction, the Agrarians, and the Communists.

[Virkunen] It is hard to imagine that Mr. Zhirinovskiy, who has a university education, should be unable to understand the significance of mortgages for the development of the economy.

[Bunich] Mr. Zhirinovskiy has stated: Our country has been robbed, its clothes and its shoes have been taken, there is simply nothing left to mortgage, except our souls. But apart from our souls, we have sufficient property assets suitable to mortgage. Ten million families have privatized their apartments. This is one-third of the housing stock of the towns. Forty million people have plots of land which may be sold, even according to the Communist canon. There are 220,000 privatized enterprises in the country and 1 million small business enterprises. All of this is suitable for mortgaging.

[Virkunen] Will there be foreign investment in Russia after the election?

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[Bunich] We need it, of course. Only we can hardly hope that foreign capital will be equal to domestic capital. Foreigners are not yet justifying even the most modest of expectations. In our rosy dreams, we saw them rushing into the stock market and beginning to buy shares in our enterprises after Yeltsin's victory. Nothing of the sort has been observed yet. I am not sure that the forecast figure of $10 billion in portfolio investments will be achieved. In the election fever, we seriously exaggerated the political factor and completely forgot there are other risks. For example, failure to pay. Why do foreigners need to bother with this? They sell their output here but do not get the money for it.

Everything is far from clear with taxes as well. There is to be a new tax code, but no one knows what it will be like. The political risks have not disappeared either. For example, the talk of the president's real or imaginary illness, of the probability that Lebed may replace Yeltsin, and of "Red" governors coming to power. So we cannot count on a large influx of foreign capital.

[Virkunen] Is a fundamental review of the results of privatization expected?

[Bunich] There will not be a global review, naturally. A mass revision of the results of privatization cannot be carried out now. Should we leave it be if a number of major enterprises committed serious infringements of the law during privatization? I suggested at a government session that the initiative for a check of this kind should come from the State Property Committee, from the democrats, who did not win to shield rascals and bandits. However, government First Deputy Chairman Vladimir Kadannikov has come out decisively against this. I do not know why, but it is no secret that an enquiry into the results of privatization is not in the interests of a number of important officials.

The dream of some directors now is to have just three members of staff remaining at work in the joint-stock companies — the director himself, the chief accountant, and a bodyguard. All the remainder can be fired. The building can be cleared and rented out, nothing needs to be done, and the money can be coined in. The shareholders' interests' are essentially ignored.

For example, here is a letter from the Moscow VARZ works. The car repair works is being turned into a storehouse with the "agreement" of the shareholders. The plan is to dismantle the galvanizing plant, the heat plant, the paintshop, the powerful presses, and all of the lathes. No one knows where the equipment will go or who will buy it. When the company was floated, no one thought this might happen. There are no plans to keep the specialists or jobs. Changes are needed to the laws on privatization and joint-stock companies. Let us put all our efforts into this.

[Virkunen] Can we hope that enterprises and citizens will pay taxes in a law-abiding fashion?

[Bunich] I know a lot of entrepreneurs since I am president of the union of entrepreneurs and leaseholders. They tell me in confidence that they evade taxes: It does not cost them much to evade the tax bodies. I ask how much? They answer: For several thousand dollars altogether, or just for dresses, sweets, cognac, or preferential treatment in hospital, you can receive benefits or even be exempted from taxes. So how can you not steal from a state like that? The main reason is the lack of punishments. Many people say they steal or take bribes because they are poor. I categorically do not agree. Even if you paid officials and the law-enforcement bodies five times more, they would not stop stealing or taking bribes while they go unpunished. There is no limit to desires and appetites.

[Virkunen] Not only enterprises, but ordinary citizens, should pay taxes on time. Why do the tax bodies not look into those who are building properties worth several hundreds of thousands of dollars, despite having modest incomes.

[Bunich] Firstly, no additional laws are needed for this. Let them make a declaration of income which explains this gothic palace. The reason is the same. It is very easy to buy your way out of this. Secondly, a tax on palaces and land needs to be introduced so that the money that they are in a position to pay can be taken from the rich. Foreigners do not buy gothic palaces. The tax on property abroad is such that it is better to sell palaces. They says to us at our meetings: Do not worry, let them build, but when you have a normal tax system like ours, these properties will be empty.

[Virkunen] What will our future be like? Surely eternal instability and impossible upheaval are not what lies ahead for Russia?

[Bunich] Oscar Wilde said the optimist is a coward who fears his own inevitable and terrible future. I am also an optimist, but for different reasons. There will be no catastrophes. Moreover, the seeds of recovery have been sown. The first timid shoots have even appeared. Despite political costs of every possible kind, at the end of this year, we will be able to taxi into a good starting position in 1997, when economic growth will definitely happen.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Nuclear Plants Underpay Russian Suppliers

LD1308111296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 13 Aug 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, August 13 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian nuclear power plants have paid their Russian suppliers only 10.7 percent of this month's fuel debt.

According to Ukraine's Nuclear Energy Committee, electric power consumers owe more than 136 trillion karbovantsy, including over 97 trillion karbovantsy to nuclear power stations. At a time of rampant insolvency, energy supplying companies have been the nuclear power plants' main debtors.

Insolvency in June caused the acute shortage of fresh fuel for Ukrainian nuclear reactors. As a result, the Chernobyl nuclear power station had to slash the capacities of its first and third reactors on several occasions.

Nevertheless, Ukraine's Minister for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety Yuriy Kostenko gave an assurance that Russia will deliver fuel to Ukrainian nuclear power plants "in full" to compensate for withdrawn strategic weapons.

Ukraine: First Deputy Defense Minister Leaves for United States

LD1208162296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 12 Aug — Lieutenant General Oleksandr Zatynayko, chief of the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces and first deputy defense minister of Ukraine, today left for the United States on a four-day visit. The press service of the Ministry of Defense told UNIAN that Lieutenant General Zatynyako will visit the headquarters of NATO's Atlantic Command in Norfolk, meet NATO's supreme allied commander, visit some U.S. naval ships, and familiarize himself with the main U.S. naval base in the Atlantic.

Besides, Lieutenant General Zatynayko will attend the open multinational exercise codenamed Cooperative Osprey-96, which will be taking place at the U.S. marine infantry base Camp Lejeune (North Carolina) from 14-31 August.

Ukraine: Ukrainian Police Contingent Leaves for Former Yugoslavia

MM1208151996 Kiev TRUD-7 (Weekly Edition for Ukraine) in Russian 9 Aug 96 p 11

[Report by Ivan Levchenko under the "State and the World" rubric: "The UN Secretary General Invites..."]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The replacement contingent of the UN Civilian Police Forces is leaving for the former Yugoslavia. In this connection members of the Ukrainian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Collegium held a meeting with the candidates for the new contingent. Deputy Minister Viktor Korol, noting the high level of professionalism of the Ukrainian policemen, expressed the wish that they would all return home safe and sound. These send-off ceremonies for the monitors, as they are called, have been held for three years now. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian internal affairs officers now serve in all three UN missions. Ukraine was invited by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to dispatch the necessary number of police monitors. Fifty were chosen.

I talked with Police Major Oleksandr Tereshchuk, senior superintendent of a department of the State Service for Combating Economic Crime of Volyn Oblast's Novovolyn City Police Department.

He has already been in the Balkans for nine months, and can judge events there from first-hand knowledge. In his opinion, further work should be carried out on the legal basis of long-term foreign assignments; in particular, essential additions and amendments should be made to the new statute on performing service. It would be extremely germane to set up specialist groups in Ukrainian MVD training establishments for the in-depth study of English and other foreign languages.

Oleskandr expressed his warm regard for colleagues who are keeping in touch with him and supporting him in word and deed. He was glad to learn that special uniforms are being designed for those participating in UN missions.

The peacekeepers in police uniform are traveling to the former Yugoslavia with the conviction that their service will facilitate the establishment of peace there.

Ukraine: Cabinet Denies Hungary Permission To Erect Monument

LD0908191496 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 9 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lvov, 9 Aug (UNIAN) — The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has taken a decision

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obliging the Transcarpathian Region state administration to cancel its permission to erect a monument commemorating the 1,100th anniversary of the Hungarian state at the Veretskiy Pass in the Carpathians. The leader of the press service of the Lvov branch of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh], Yuriy Okhrimenko, has told UNIAN that the decision was taken after Rukh and other national and democratic organizations had appealed to the Ukrainian president [Leonid Kuchma] and prime minister [Pavlo Lazarenko] in connection with Hungary's intention to build a monument on Ukrainian territory. The national and democratic forces described this intention as "an act of aggression against Ukraine's integrity".

According to Okhrimenko, the monument at the Veretskiy Pass, the construction of which is already under way, is now being dismantled.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma Replaces Communications, Labor Ministers

LD1308084996 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has issued decrees appointing Dmytro Khudoliy as Minister of Communications and Mykola Biloblotskyy as Minister of Labor. Their predecessors, Communications Minister Valeriy Yefremov and Labor Minister Mykhaylo Kaskevych, have been released from their posts.

Ukraine: Kuchma Relieves Representative in Supreme Council

LD1208190696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 12 Aug 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, August 12 (Interfax-Ukraine) — President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine has relieved Viktor Musiyaka of his duties as permanent representative of the President in Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council], "IF-U" has learnt from usually well-informed sources in Kiev.

According to the sources, V. Musiyaka has been sacked "at his request".

At the same time, a decree to this effect has not been published yet.

V.Musiyaka tendered a letter of resignation late in June, after the announcement of the Decree on a constitutional referendum.

Ukraine: OUN Rejects Declaration on Political Reconciliation

LD1208112196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1020 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 12 Aug — The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists [OUN] is flatly rejecting the "Declaration on Political Reconciliation of the Ukrainian Society," according to a statement by the OUN secretariat, which has been made available to UNIAN. Volodymyr Yavorivskiyy, the leader of the Democratic Party of Ukraine, earlier proposed that all political parties should sign this declaration.

The OUN members believe that they are being urged to sit at a "roundtable" with those political forces that were "fighting consistently and persistently against the Ukrainian state," that is with communists and socialists.

Ukrainian nationalists, OUN in particular, are in favor of unity and cooperation, but this refers only to those parties, movements, and organizations that "treasure the prosperity of the Ukrainian nation and the Ukrainian state most of all."

Ukraine: Deputy Views Legislative Alignment of Forces

WS1208143296 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 6 Aug 96 p 3

[Interview with Ukraine Supreme Council Deputy Serhiy Sobolyev, leader of the "Reforms" legislative faction, by Andriy Sek; place and date not given: "'Reforms' Have Been and Will Be in Parliament"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Sek] **Following the adoption of the Constitution and enactment on the inadmissibility to simultaneously hold posts in the government and the Supreme Council, the prospect for a structural change in parliament has arisen. What are your prognoses in connection with this? Will the deputy factions and groups be preserved in their current form, including the "Reforms" faction, which has a lot of deputies holding more than one post?**

[Sobolyev] I will begin with the last question. Rumors about a large number of our faction deputies holding more than one post appeared following an interview of the Supreme Council chairman, which he gave after the adoption of the Constitution. He stated that the existence of our deputy faction was threatened. This was untrue, or a gross mistake. We have only two deputies in our faction who hold more than one post. One of them is Serhiy Holovatyy, who has already announced his transfer to a job in the government — since now he is

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going to work as justice minister. The second is Viktor Pynzenyk. As is known, his appointment to a job in the new government will soon be made. I will remind you that there are 30 deputies in our group; therefore, I do not think that the number of "Reforms" members will decrease significantly.

Regarding possible changes and political realignments in the Supreme Council, I suppose that they will take place. Everybody feels that after the adoption of the Constitution, a serious split occurred between the "left-wing" orthodox communists headed by Moyseyenko and Symonenko and those who realized clearly and in a timely manner that the above-mentioned leaders' policy was not very successful. This is why I feel that a significant restructuring will take place in the Supreme Council; it will most likely result in strengthening the so-called moderate communists headed by Oleksandr Moroz and in significantly weakening the influence of the extreme communist group led by Symonenko. The vote for the Constitution, when only 20 communists actually remained true to their ideals, confirmed this one more time.

[Sek] Serhiy Vladyslavovych, will there be any realignment of forces between the "centrists," "rightists," and "leftists?"

[Sobolyev] In my opinion, this will surely take place. What is more, there are a lot of statements vowing the intention to create a "United Center" faction. Any prospect for a unification of different deputy factions and groups on the principles of a single ideological economic platform is a phenomenon that can only further normal work in parliament.

Regarding the prospect of general changes in the "right-wing" camp, I think that the Ukrainian People's Rukh fzction will not agree to any unification. Regarding the possibility for more serious coordination of actions between the "right-centrists" and "rightists," it seems to me that such coordination, under the circumstances of the need to adopt tens or even hundreds of laws to extend the Constitution's guidelines, will become more and more vigorous.

[Sek] Relative reconciliation among the deputy corps has been observed recently. What are the prospects for constructive work — on which you already commented a little bit — in the future?

[Sobolyev] Reconciliation is possible regarding general guidelines that were already included in the Constitution. Demagogues from "left-wing" factions will continue to raise the issue of private land ownership. Why do I call them demagogues? They simply play on the peasant's sentiments by stating that our chernozem soils are allegedly exported to the West by the carload, that our chernozem soils are neglected by private farmers. Let us agree that this is open demagogy which, incidentally, has been professed over the last two years, but which has not been corroborated by real life. Let us compare land plots attended to by private owners and those being everybody's property, that is, without any specific owner.

Constructive work is possible during the consideration of laws on judicial reforms with regard to the prosecutor's supervision, as well as normative acts on more stringent government control over state enterprises and management of these industrial facilities. The deputies have to find common language also in considering legislative acts on reforms in civil law relations. I think that the overwhelming majority of people's deputies will find common language.

[Sek] You were one of the initiators to oust Moroz from the post of Supreme Council speaker. You, along with other deputies, collected signatures to support his dismissal and, following the first unsuccessful attempt, promised to return to this matter later. Have you changed your mind after Moroz changed his role in the constitutional process?

[Sobolyev] Indeed, Moroz changed very abruptly, and this can be clearly seen in comparing his speeches before and after the adoption of the Constitution. It seems to me that Moroz realized that we were remaining on the verge of dissolving parliament without any reason. Oleksandr Oleksandrovych [Moroz] realized perfectly well that he would have very little chance to become the Supreme Council head once again at some later time. On the other hand, he also realized that also the general result of elections might be unforeseeable at that time.

A lot will depend on how constructive a position the Supreme council head will take with regard to implementing the foundations of the Basic Law in life, as well as on whether he will oppose the Supreme Council itself, that is, a majority of parliamentarians which have criticized, or are criticizing, Oleksandr Oleksandrovych's stance. It was good that before the adoption of the Constitution, Moroz realized that it was necessary either to change his behavior or to resign, and that he choose the first option.

You know about the attempts to intimidate with different means those people opposing Moroz: these means included, for instance, the collection of signatures by communists to dismiss me, which resulted in gathering 40 signatures instead of the 300 required for this procedure. I think that different camps in the Supreme Council have learned a lot — the main thing being how

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to tolerate each other and tolerate criticism addressed to oneself.

[Sek] In your opinion, what laws should be adopted immediately? What should be done in the legislative sphere urgently?

[Sobolyev] I would specify three basic packages [of laws]. The most important package pertains to the Civil Code. The second package concerns laws on reforms in the judicial-legal system. Aside from this, you realize very well that the judicial-legal reform is impossible without a reform of the prosecutor's supervision.... The third direction of our work during the next session concerns laws that could regulate the sphere of management of private property — all those issues relating to privatization, management of state property at enterprises, privatized facilities, or management of the state property not subject to privatization. This will include a law on the Cabinet of Ministers and its mutual relations with the Supreme Council.

One can forecast that these three basic packages of laws will be given priority during the sixth session. One can also add internal changes in the Supreme Council work, which are required by the new Constitution: creating committees on the basis of commissions; determining the role of heads of deputy groups and factions; and forming the daily agenda.

[Sek] A private question. How are you going to spend your leave?

[Sobolyev] I would like to spend it by combining active physical work on my dacha plot with rest by the sea. I hope that I will succeed in doing this.

Ukraine: Siemens Offers Technical Assistance to Rivne Nuclear Plant

WS1308084096 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0625 GMT 13 Aug 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rivne — Head of information department at the Rivne nuclear power plant Volodymyr Steshenko told the INFOBANK correspondent that under the agreement on technical assistance with Siemens his plant has already received loading equipment for nuclear fuel, technology-controlling computer systems, and generators for the total amount of DM 12 million. Siemens will continue the supplies of equipment till 1999-2000 to help put into operation power unit 4.

The amount of German technical assistance has been fixed by the intergovernmental agreement signed June 10, 1993. The assistance will be given in the form of grants. Along with Siemens, the federal ministry of the environment, nature protection and nuclear reactors safety, as well as the society for safety on nuclear reactors of Germany, are involved in the implementation of the technical assistance program.

In addition, technical and consulting services to Rivne nuclear power plant are provided by the French Electricite de France and Coris companies. The first is involved in bringing the operating records of the Rivne plant to European standards, and the other supplied a simulator for modeling possible technological emergencies.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Government 'Studying' Fate of Scientific Ships

MM1208154196 Kiev TRUD-7 (Weekly Edition for Ukraine) in Russian 9 Aug 96 p 14

[Report by Tatyana Osipenko: "Contract Signed in a Flash"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian Government is now seriously studying a request from the Russian authorities to suspend the sale of the scientific research ships Akademik Sergey Korolev and Kosmonavt Yuriy Gagarin. A working group headed by Vice Premier Ivan Kuros is currently analyzing the expediency of a decision on this by another vice premier, Anatoliy Kinakh.

Official Kiev is today saying that, basically, following the collapse of the Union, no one needs these ships. Meanwhile, the losses incurred by the Black Sea Fleet Steamship Company from maintaining these ships stand at almost $14 million. At one time the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense expressed interest in the ships, but it too later turned them down because of insufficient funds. At the same time, the military dismantled all the valuable equipment on the ships.

Eventually the owners of the ships went to Vice Premier Kinakh and convinced him amazingly quickly of the expedience of selling the Kosmonavt Yuriy Gagarin and the Akademik Sergey Korolev for scrap metal, from which the state would receive $5.8 million. Guided by these arguments, the government concluded that the correct decision had been made.

Independent experts give a different assessment. They believe that the decision is a sign of the inability of certain high-ranking Ukrainian functionaries to manage the scientific industrial complex. In addition, according to expert assessments, the deal was concluded at dumping prices. In view of this, and also the lightning speed at which the contract was concluded, observers suspect that some high-ranking person was involved in it.

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Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Says Referendum Questions To Be Set by 15 Aug

LD1208123896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1157 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Aug 12 (Interfax-West) — The questions to be put at the referendum in Belarus are to be approved before August 15, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has told reporters.

He made it clear that the proposals on the November 7 referendum, which he submitted to the republic's Supreme Soviet on August 9, do not contain final wordings nor the number of the questions.

Lukashenka said it is expedient to suggest four questions: on corrections of the constitution, on the transfer of the republic's Independence Day from July 27 (the day when the Declaration on Sovereignty was approved in 1990) to July 3 (the date of Minsk's liberation from the Nazis), as well as questions on private property for land and on capital punishment.

He said that despite experts' recommendations, he doubts the need to include such questions as the citizens' attitude to NATO expansion and to privatization. "It is clear without the referendum that the people are against NATO's eastward expansion," said Lukashenka. As for privatization, it has been carried out for a long time," he said.

"There is no sense to ask people about the observance of the law in this sphere because they will vote for order and legality," he said.

Belarus: Flawed Constitution Cited as Reason for Referendum

WS1308084496 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0624 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 12 August — The Central Public and Political Information Department at the Presidential Administration has made a press release in view of the President's proposal that a national referendum should be held on November 7, 1996. The press release in particular reads, "The two years that have passed since the current Belarusian Constitution was adopted showed that the hurry and secrecy in which the Basic Law of the country was adopted determined in a certain degree its gross flaws and contradictions... As a matter of fact, the Constitution deprives the President of all control levers, simultaneously granting unlimited authority to the Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Court. Moreover the Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Court may remove the President elected by the whole nation from power independently and without asking advice from the people. At the same time there is no provision for recalling deputies, Constitutional Court members, for their removal from office and for the cancellation of their decisions... The Constitutional Court, which is formed by the Supreme Soviet only, has turned into an appendage of the legislature, and an instrument for pressure on the Chief of State and the executive branch... A serious correction of the Basic Law, the Constitution of the country, is necessary above all to ensure the effective activities of the executive, legislative and judicial branches, as well as of the Chief of State — the President — in the interests of the Belarusian people. The attainment of this goal is the objective of the proposal of the President of the Republic of Belarus to hold a national referendum for the introduction of amendments into the Constitution. The people — the only Constitutional source of state power — should set limits on the authority of the President, the Supreme Soviet, the executive branch and the Constitutional Court, the principles of their interaction and their mutual responsibility in the disinterested service to their people... Any delay in the solution of the Constitutional crisis may only complicate the creative work of Belarusian society, lead to unjustified conflicts and break public accord." The Central Public and Political Information Department refers to "findings by experts at the European Commission for Democracy through Law at the Council of Europe as regards paragraphs in the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus," which allegedly "unequivocally" read that relations between the President and the Supreme Soviet in Belarus "were formulated in such a way that the Supreme Soviet predominates over the President," and "a departure is allowed from the Constitutional principle of division of power, which clears the way to interference in the sphere of the executive branch."

Belarus: Opposition Deputy Criticizes Referendum Questions

WS1308091396 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0624 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 12 August — Commenting in an interview with a BELAPAN correspondent on President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's proposal to hold a national referendum and on the questions he put on the referendum, the deputy chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, Hennadiy Karpenka, said, "The evident objective of the holding of this referendum is to strengthen the President's authority, extend Alyaksandr Lukashenka's term of office, and draw away public attention from failures in the economic policies of the Chief of State. The speculation on the dates — July 3 and November 7 (the referendum is scheduled for the

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October Revolution Day) will lead to none other than an increase in confrontation between generations.

According to the first question proposed by the President for the referendum, the celebration of the Independence Day of Belarus, which is celebrated now on July 27, is to be transferred to July 3, the alleged date of the liberation of Belarus from fascist invaders. You know that was the day of the liberation of Minsk, but the last fascist warrior left the territory of Belarus in the final days of July. In the second question the President proposes the introduction of amendments into the Constitution, but does not says what introductions should be introduced. The third question — 'Do you support the free, without any restrictions, buying and selling of land?' — is formulated extremely improperly. If it were formulated in that way, I would vote against as in any state there are and should be mechanisms to restrict the sale of land. Finally, the fourth question — 'Do you support the abolition of death penalty in the Republic of Belarus?' is far-fetched."

In Mr Karpenka's opinion, when the Belarusian Supreme Soviet considers the President's draft parliamentary resolution about the referendum, it should correct the wordings of some of the questions and add new ones, including that about people's attitudes towards the economic policy pursued by the President.

Belarus: Lukashenka Cites Primakov's Support of Referendum

WS1308091496 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0624 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 12 August — According to Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Yevgeniy Primakov, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, completely supports the Belarusian President in his aspiration to hold a national referendum for the introduction of amendments into the Constitution. As Mr Lukashenka said in an interview with Belarusian journalists, the draft amendments had been handed over to Mr Primakov earlier so that this "experienced, wise and very talented and world respected diplomat would draw his conclusion... as regards the draft Constitution." As Mr Lukashenka claimed, during a meeting at the end of last week in Moscow, Mr Primakov defined this draft as the best he had ever seen recently. The President said that he was pleased to receive an opinion, "an oral one for the time being," about the draft Constitution, and added that "the support of such a diplomat is of great importance."

Belarus: Lukashenka Comments on Results of Visit to Moscow

LD1208190996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 12 Aug 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] The talks with the Russian leaders in Moscow last week, inspire confidence that the Russian-Belarussian Community will continue to develop, President Lukashenka told Belarussian reporters after the visit to Moscow.

He said Belarussian-Russian integration was the focal point of his talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian President's Chief of Staff Anatoliy Chubays, Secretary of the Russian Security Council Aleksandr Lebed, Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov and Chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev.

"It's important that we do not miss the historic chance for deepening Belarussian-Russian integration," he said. "We have reached complete understanding on the issue with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and other Russian leaders," said Lukashenka.

During the talks with Russian Foreign Minister Primakov, the Belarussian president's initiative to create a nuclear-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe was discussed for a second time. The initiative was advanced by Lukashenka for the first time in Minsk on July 3, during the celebrations of the city's liberation from the German fascists. "The Russian Foreign Ministry fully shares our position on the issue," said Lukashenka.

He announced that he had informed Primakov of the national referendum on the key issues of state and public life, scheduled for November 7. Primakov did not advance any argument against the national referendum and the issues which will be raised during it, said Lukashenka. IF Note: Lukashenka proposed that the ballot papers include the following issues: the transfer of the republic's Independence Day from July 27 (the day when the memorandum on state sovereignty was signed) to July 3 (the day when Minsk was liberated from the German fascists); the adoption of the 1994 constitution with changes and additions (the new edition will be published by the middle of September). The citizens are to state whether they favor the free buying and selling of land without any limitations and whether they support the abolition of capital punishment.

Lukashenka proposed that the first two issues be mandatory and that a decision on them be taken without discussion and on the basis of the referendum results. The

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answers to the last two questions might be taken as recommendations, he said.

He gave to understand that the proposals and the draft parliamentary resolution on holding a national referendum, which he had submitted to the parliament before his departure to Moscow, do not contain final wordings or a final number of questions to be answered by the people. The questions will have been finalized by August 15, when he will set out for a two-day trip to the Grodno region (Western Belarus).

He announced that contrary to experts, he doubts the necessity to ask what the people think about NATO's enlargement to the Eastern European countries, and about privatization. "It's clear without a referendum that the people are against NATO's eastward enlargement," he said.

He said that privatization has been on for a long time and that there is no use asking the people what they think about violations of laws in this sphere: the people will firmly come out in favor of law and order, he said.

In answer to the question about the subject of the talks in Moscow between the Belarussian and Ukrainian presidents, Lukashenka said that the talks had concentrated on three problems: the repayment of the Ukrainian enterprises' debts to Belarus; the Belarussian property in Ukraine and the delimitation of the state border. He said he had agreed with President Kuchma that Ukraine's debt to Belarus ($222 million) will be given the status of Ukraine's state debt.

The two presidents also agreed that a number of facilities located in Ukraine will be passed over to Belarus. Lukashenka gave to understand that he meant the health and recreation centers, built in the Soviet times by Belarussian enterprises and organizations. There are a total of 26 facilities in Ukraine which are expected to be passed over to Belarus.

Belarus: Lukashenka Unhappy Over SupSov Speaker's Visit to Russia

WS1308084396 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0624 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, August 12 — Yegor Stroyev, Chairman of the Russian Council of the Federation (the upper chamber of Parliament) has informed the Belarusian President of the matters which were discussed during Stroyev's meeting with Syamyon Sharetski, Chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, when the latter visited the Orlov region of Russia. This was announced by Alyaksandr Lukashenka in an interview with Belarusian journalists who covered his trip to Moscow last week. "That was a somewhat semi-underground visit of our speaker," Mr Lukashenka said, "and I am grateful to Mr Stroyev for the extremely frank information about that meeting which he gave me... This is so unpleasant that I do not want even to discuss this matter. But all of that was in the same vein of the position, that policy, which he is pursuing today in Belarus. However, it is not fair to do that behind someone's back." The President also said that Mr Stroyev suggested that Belarus should cooperate with the Orlov region, and that there are some "results of this cooperation."

Belarus: Pickets in Support of Lukashenka Organized in Minsk

LD1208124196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 12 Aug (Interfax-West) — The Council of the Belarusian Patriotic Movement, which unites supporters of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Monday organized pickets in Lukashenka's support in front of the buildings of the U.S. Embassy and the UN mission in Minsk.

An Interfax correspondent reports that the picketers carry posters saying that the CIA is nursing new provocations against sovereign Belarus and its president, and that in Warsaw, Riga, Vilnius and Moscow subversive centers have been set up which have taken up the role of leaders of the campaign to discredit and depose Lukashenka.

The picketers also assert that extremist nationalists from Belarus and from the Ukrainian UNA-UNSO nationalist organization are involved in the campaign.

Moldova

Moldova: Abramciuc Runs For Presidency as 'Independent'

AU1208153996 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 10/08/1996 (BASA-press) — Veronica Abramciuc, head of the National Relations Department and member of the Moldovan Socialist Party (PSM), made public today her decision to run for the Moldovan presidency as independent candidate. Earlier, the Krylov faction of the PSM announced it intended to suggest Abramciuc to these elections.

Abramciuc told BASA-press that she decided to run for presidency because she cannot stay indifferently "when the society is divided on the basis of ethnical criteria, when the state assets are stolen, the industry has been

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destroyed, and the government cannot grant the free of charge medical assistance. Proceeding from the will of the people, I am ready to settle down the Dniester dispute, granting a state-juridical status to the eastern districts," said Abramciuc. Touching her electoral platform, she stressed that "the examination of staffs will have a single criterion — the professionalism, representatives of all ethnical groups must be represented in the state power bodies."

Local observers think that her decision to run for presidency as independent candidate is based upon both the split of the PSM and the decision adopted by the Central Electoral Commission not to register the Patriotic Popular Forces Bloc.

Moldova: Dniester Women's Committee Opposes Presidential Elections

AU1208164396 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, August 8 (INFOTAG) — Dniester's Women's Strike Committee, which is one of the most radical social-political organizations in the region and decisively stands for strengthening of the statehood and sovereignty of the Dniester republic, spoke categorically against holding the elections of the president of Moldova on the territory of Dniester region.

In a declaration, transmitted by Dniester radio, it is pointed out that recently the anniversary of tragic events in Bender was observed, the bloody tragedy of the military conflict is still fresh in the memory, that's why it is impermissible to hold elections of Moldovan president at the territory of Dniester with the participation of candidates directly involved in unleashing of blood-shedding events.

Women's strike committee challenges to prevent opening of polling-stations for presidential elections of Moldova and election campaigning on the territory of Dniester.

Moldova: Security Chief Urges Dniester's Participation in Elections

AU1208154496 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol 10/08/1996 (BASA-press) — Tiraspol security minister Vadim Shevtsov (Antyufeyev) told in an interview granted to the Dniester Communist Party's newspaper POBEDA (THE VICTORY) that the population on the left bank of Dniester should participate in the election of the Moldovan president.

According to him, the holding of elections on the Dniester territory "is a new step in the struggle for the recognition of the Dniester republic by the international community." He also opted for closer contacts between the Communists on the both banks of Dniester. The interview was published in two issues in succession. The Russian playwright Vladimir Logynov told recently a Moscow newspaper that "General Aleksandr Lebed, Colonel Mikhail Bergman, agents of the Western secret services and foreign and Dniester journalists lay efforts to make General Shevtsov an image of a Russian Dudayev, exhibiting his armed or military forces as some illegal groups of gangsters."

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Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: Military Official Announces Formation of Border Guards

LD1308091596 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a press conference today Bolat Zakiyev, commander of Kazakhstan's border troops, announced the formation of the state border guard force.

[Correspondent] When four years ago, on 18 August, President [Nursultan] Nazarbayev signed a decree to form Kazakhstan's border troops, Kazakhstan inherited [from the Soviet Union] 1,718 km of borders with foreign countries, plus 56 km of Tajik-Afghan border guarded by a Kazakh battalion. If we add to that the 49,000 people who cross the border every month, then one can imagine the volume of work facing our border guards.

Although, as Bolat Zakiyev, chairman of the State Border Guard Committee, stated, the total number of border infringements decreased by eight percent, attempts to smuggle contraband are continuing. There are border violators there. Since the beginning of the year 141 such violators have been detained, including 76 deserters from China and countries of the other far abroad countries. Attempts to leave for abroad illegally increased by 26 percent compared with 1995.

There are problems of an internal nature, such as discipline among the troops and evasion of conscription for military service. Up to 15 percent of recruits are sick. But all these are problems of the transitional period, believes Bolat Zakiyev. The troops' contacts with local administrations along the border are being established on a new level. A system for these to give practical help to the border guard troops is in operation, starting from material assistance to issues of guarding the border and monitoring observance of the border regime.

Proceeding from the strategic tendency toward integration, a specific role is given to relations with Russia. In order to carry out the agreed decisions and ensure the sides' cooperation in guarding foreign borders, operational groups of border troops of the Russian Federation have been formed in the Republic of Kazakhstan and, correspondingly, of Kazakhstan in Russia.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Rebel Forces Concentrating Along Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1208145596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Aug 12 (Interfax) — Tajik opposition units are increasing their concentration along the Tajik-Afghan border, Lt. Gen. Pavel Tarasenko, commander of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, told a briefing in Dushanbe Monday.

The situation is particularly tense in the direction of Shugnan, Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, opposite the area guarded by the Kalaikhumb border unit, he said.

Tarasenko believes that opposition units intend to break through the border in the direction of Vanch-Yazgulem within two or three days and get to the Tavil Dara region to strengthen units fighting against Tajik government troops.

In addition, the situation is aggravating on the Khorog sector of the border, where 300-400 rebels are concentrated. Over 200 rebels are concentrated close to the upper reaches of the Kufalak ravine on the Afghan territory, said Tarasenko.

All these units have modern weaponry, including armored vehicles and recoilless guns. The rebels are well trained for combat in mountains, he said.

According to the Russian command, the Afghan government has provided helicopters with crews to quickly deliver rebels to Tavil Dara. Air corridors for future transportation of rebel units to Tajikistan's Pamir foothills have been traced, said Tarasenko.

He believes the air factor will be key to the planned strengthening of the Tavil Dara opposition unit.

Russian border guards, together with units from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, are taking necessary measures, said Tarasenko. More Russian border troops will be dispatched to the most dangerous sectors of the border within days and decisive measures will be taken to prevent violations of the border, he said.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains tense. On Sunday, Russian border guards prevented four attempts by rebel units to get across the border from Afghanistan in the sectors guarded by the Khorog and Kalaikhumb border units, said Tarasenko.

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Tajikistan: 'Wave of Riots' May Spread Throughout Republic

LD1208165996 Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0300 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest report received from Tursunzade, over 80 people were killed and wounded there as a result of a clash two days ago. Only one point is still unclear — whether the clash took place between two opposition groups or with the law-enforcement bodies of the regime sent to put down the rising.

The disorder that has begun in Shaartuz District is, according to the report, directly linked to the events in Tursunzade. It has already been reported that the situation is tense in Khatlon Region on the whole, especially in the Kurgan-Tyube area and people are awaiting the outcome of events in Tursunzade. It has been suggested that the wave of riots will spread (?further) throughout the republic.

Tajikistan: Inter-Tajik Search for Agreement Breaks Down

MM1208141596 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Aug 96 pp 1,3

["Military-Political Review" by Vitaliy Strugovets: "The Order: Cross the Border. The Tajik Opposition Has Concentrated Thousands of Guerrillas in Afghanistan. For 'Diplomatic' Pressure on Dushanbe or for Battle?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The third attempt to reach accord during the fifth round of the inter-Tajik talks has also failed. This is because, in the opinion of most observers, the extension of the cease-fire agreement and its violation literally within hours of its being signed can hardly be considered a positive result. The exchange of prisoners of war is hardly going to take place before 20 August either. Whatever else, it is common knowledge that the exchange of the first batch of prisoners did not take place on 29 July, the day envisaged by the protocol of the meeting. But generally speaking if you do try to characterize stage three of round five of the inter-Tajik talks, victory must undoubtedly be "awarded" to the opposition.

I.

As the majority of observers predicted, during stage three of round five of the inter-Tajik talks, official Dushanbe made considerable concessions to Taloqan (the Afghan city where the United Tajik Opposition has its headquarters). As early as day three of the meeting, Talbak Nazarov, Republic of Tajikistan foreign minister and head of the government delegation, announced the republic leadership's readiness to convene a forum of the Tajikistan peoples in Dushanbe with the participation of government and opposition representatives on a parity basis, to create a coordinating commission there for the preparation of recommendations on amendments and additions to the existing constitution, and finally to admit representatives of the opposition to the republic's government and the local government organs. Let us note that just six months ago, during stage two of the talks, the government delegation categorically refused to discuss these questions which had been placed on the agenda by the opposition then. What is the reason for such a sharp change in official Dushanbe's position?

In our view there were two decisive factors. First, despite many predictions about the inevitable split within the ranks of the United Tajik Opposition it has not only preserved its forces but has also considerably broadened its zone of influence inside and outside Tajikistan. Hence factor two: The world community, convinced that the United Tajik Opposition enjoys considerable support within Tajikistan, is insisting on the legalization of its activity in the republic. This was confirmed at the January (1996) summit of the CIS heads of states and in the UN Security Council statement published at the first session of the inter-Tajik meeting in Ashgabat. The Security Council set a five-month deadline to resolve the main contradictions between Dushanbe and Taloqan and threatened serious measures otherwise. For Tajikistan, which has been existing for a number of years now mainly on humanitarian aid from the United Nations and the CIS states, this is a serious warning.

It may be boldly stated that the opposition has already achieved its main aim: It is returning to Tajikistan with head held high. The only question now, figuratively speaking, is how high its head will be. In other words, what share will the opposition take in Tajikistan's political life. By all accounts in Taloqan they have decided to resolve this question to their greatest possible advantage by the traditional method of strong-arm pressure. [passage omitted]

II.

In connection with the considerable increase in tension on the Tajik-Afghan border, the Russian border troops and the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces have adopted additional measures. In particular, Lieutenant General Viktor Zavarzin, commander of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces, has made a decision on reinforcing the echelonned support for the Russian border troops in areas where Tajik opposition armed formations are concentrated and in sectors where they could try to break through into Tajik territory. As we were told at the Collective Peacekeeping Forces headquarters, for the

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first time in the past three years the border situation has demanded the allocation of extra forces and resources.

Will the United Tajik Opposition leaders decide to switch to large-scale combat actions? From the political viewpoint this is disadvantageous to them after Dushanbe's statement of readiness to allow the opposition into the government. Furthermore, a direct clash with Russian servicemen on the border does not promise easy victories. But on the other hand, military successes in Tavil-Dara and diplomatic successes in Ashgabat could go to the "intransigents'" heads. They might think that one last strike is enough for complete victory.

It will become clear in the days ahead what course the opposition is going to choose.

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Azerbaijan

Azerbiajan: Aliyev Meets German OSCE Minsk Group Representative

NC1208160996 Baku TURAN in English 0519 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku /12.08.96/ TURAN — Today president Geydar Aliyev received the representative of Germany to the OSCE Minsk group then envoy Frank Lambach. He noted that the meeting of the representatives of the Minsk group is going on in Helsinki. Mr. Lambach said that he especially did not went [as received] to the meeting, in order to meet with Geydar Aliyev as soon as possible. "Members of the Minsk group consider that Nagorno-Karabakh cannot have status of the independent state. Neither OSCE nor the UN can agree that Nagorno-Karabakh became their member. These organisations cannot even have direct relations with Nagorno-Karabakh," Mr. Lambach said. The U.S. and Russia should activate their activity," the German diplomat said.

Mr. Lambach said that during his stay in Karabakh he had visited Shusha. "It is an empty city and only a small number of Armenians live there. That testifies that it is very difficult to build during the war. Besides, the Armenians themselves understand that they will have to liberate the occupied territories one day," Mr. Lambach said.

He noted that political and legal norms of the resolution of this conflict cannot change, the German diplomat said.

According to him, he did not feel the will of Armenians to continue the war, however the Armenians made a wire-fence along the perimeter of the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Lambach said that the Foreign Ministry of Germany made a special statement that after the conflict Germany would send to the conflict zone a special equipment for cleaning from mines the territories. Mr. Lambach showed the President Aliyev photos of such equipment.

Geydar Aliyev thanked Germany for the readiness to send to the region the equipment for cleaning the territories from mines. Speaking about the resolution, Aliyev said that several times Baku expressed its will to grant to Nagorno-Karabakh high status of autonomy within the borders of Azerbaijan and relevant security guarantees.

He expressed his wish that the OSCE Minsk group was more active.

Azerbaijan: Germany Ready To Help Mine Clearing Around Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1208173596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Aug 12 (Interfax) — The German Foreign Ministry is ready to initiate the supply of special mine-clearing equipment to the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, German diplomat Frank Lambah said during a meeting with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev in Baku on Monday.

Lambah is German representative at the talks on settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh within the scope of the OSCE Minsk Group.

The Minsk Group believes that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be settled proceeding from the principles of territorial integrity and state sovereignty, he said.

Aliyev showed interest in the German proposal regarding the equipment to dispose of mines in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, an Interfax correspondent reports.

Azerbaijan is ready to give Nagorno-Karabakh "the high status of an autonomy within Azerbaijan and guarantee the security of Armenians living there as it guarantees the security of other Azerbaijani residents," Aliyev said.

The rest of the meeting was held behind closed doors.

Azerbaijan: Armenians Criticized for Fencing Off Karabakh

NC1208210996 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] (?Andrey Kakhchechik), OSCE term chairman's personal representative at the Minsk Group on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; the chairman's assistants Aleksandr Vasiliyev and [name indistinct]; Frank Lambach, Germany's representative at the OSCE Minsk Group; Richard Kauzlarich, Omur Orhun, and Jean Peren, the ambassadors of the United States, Turkey and France to our country; the representatives of the Russian and German embassies in Baku; and the representatives of the Azerbaijani Foreign and Defense Ministries visited the frontline areas in Agdam, Fizuli, and Beylagan regions.

The aim of the visit was to confirm reports that the Armenian Armed Forces have erected a border fence on the occupied Azerbaijani territory, and to report the situation to the OSCE chairmanship.

The representatives of the Defense Ministry and of the [word indistinct] region told the guests that despite periodic fire opened by the Armenian Armed Forces,

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the Azerbaijani side adheres to the cease-fire regime. In violation of all international laws, the Armenian Armed Forces have erected a barbed border fence on the occupied lands of Azerbaijan.

The foreign diplomats confirmed the fact that the Armenians have erected a barbed border fence on our occupied lands. This how the foreign diplomats expressed their impressions of the visit:

The German representative Frank Lambach said: We will raise this issue at the OSCE's scheduled session. Such a step by Armenia could undermine the peace talks. Therefore, the (?wire fence) should be (?pulled down). A speedy peace agreement should be achieved. Germany's position is this: The occupied Azerbaijani lands must be freed.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Kauzlarich said: The U.S. Government recognizes Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. The present situation requires that talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan be stepped up, within the Minsk Group framework, to achieve peace.

Russian representative (?Andrey Kakhchechik) said: [words indistinct]

Turkish ambassador Omur Orhun described Armenia's action as a violation of international law and stated that such an action obstructs the peace process. We will spare no efforts inside the Minsk Group and in other international organizations to eliminate such actions.

Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan May Accept Oil Pipeline Delay Due to Chechnya

LD1208142696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Aug 12 (PIA-Interfax) — Azerbaijan said it might be willing to postpone the implementation of an agreement with Russia on the transportation of early Azerbaijani oil via Russian territory because of the deterioration of the situation in Russia's breakaway Chechen republic, Natik Aliyev, president of the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijani Republic, told Interfax's Petroleum Information Agency on Monday.

Chechnya is home to a section of the Baku-Novorossiyisk oil pipeline, by which the transportation of early oil from the Azerbaijani offshore fields of Azeri, Chirag and Gyuneshli to a terminal on the Russian coast of the Black Sea was expected to begin under a Russian-Azerbaijani agreement in early 1997. The agreement provides for transporting 35 million tonnes of Azerbaijani oil during five years.

Azerbaijan is concerned about the deterioration of the situation in Chechnya, Natik Aliyev said, adding that Azerbaijan "is in favor of settling the [Chechen] conflict as soon as possible."

"However, I see no special problem in the fact that oil transportation will begin later than envisaged by the agreement," he said.

However, if the situation in Chechnya continues to develop in "such a fashion," Azerbaijan will accelerate the construction of the Baku-Supsa "western" oil pipeline going to the Georgian coast of the Black Sea. This route has been chosen by the consortium developing the Azeri, Chirag and Gyuneshli oil fields as the second option for transporting early Azerbaijani oil. However, this oil pipeline's construction will be completed only in early 1998.

Azerbaijan will be ready for oil transportation by the planned date "or possibly even earlier," Natik Aliyev said.

Azerbaijan: Russia Closes Railway Routes to Azerbaijan

NC1208133696 Baku TURAN in English 1149 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow/12.08.96/TURAN— Due to aggravation of the situation in Groznyy the Government of Russia passed a resolution on full closure of the railway route with Azerbaijan. This decision was adopted in 10th August. At the same time, it is reported about strengthening of control on the border of Chechnya with Dagestan, Ingushetiya and Georgia.

Deputy for rail freightage of the Azerbaijan Railway Department Khosrov Safarov told TURAN that the railway between Azerbaijan and Russia operates only [from] Makhachkala.

Thus, northern routes with Azerbaijan have been blocked again. For the first time, the routes between Azerbaijan and Russia were closed when military actions in Chechnya started in autumn 1994.

Azerbaijan: Peace Group Views Torture, Human Rights Violations

NC1208161196 Baku TURAN in English 0437 GMT 12 Aug 96

[Item as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku /12.08.96/ TURAN — The Azeri Institute of Peace and Democracy made a statement which reads that there is a special jail in the Special Department of the President's Office. This

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Institute notes that the Special Department was set up in 1992 according to the decree of ex-president Elchibey, as a body of military counter-intelligence.

"At present, that Department has turned into the structure of internal political criminal investigation department with a special isolator and exists out of legislation of the republic," the information of the above Institute reads.

According to the statement, there are 8 cells (7 for one man and 1 common cell) for temporary detainment in the basement of the department (address: Azadlig avenue, 85) which have not been registered juridically. Up to seven people are kept on a cell for one, and several tens of people are kept in common cell. The detained people do not have normal conditions, they are not fed and given water for days. They are being interrogated with closed eyes, and take bath once three months. There are a lot of fleas and itched diseased, the Institute reports.

They are not provided medical assistance, the detained are beaten and tortured. It is noted also that they are kept under the arrest without showing of the permission for their arrest. In particular, only after several months the resolutions for the arrest were presented to the former chief of intelligence department for artillery of the Defence Ministry Anatoly Sisoyev, head of the unit colonel Rasim Muhtarov, junior officers Azad Rzayev, Mahir Bayramov, Namig Gojayev, colonel-lieutenants Vacheslaav Abbasov, Victor Bolsin and Captain Fikret Jebrailov.

Employees of the special department, without having any rights, arrest, conduct searches in the flats and carry out other procedures themselves, the information reads.

There is a special kind of torture in the basement with the help of telephone TAN-57 type, wires of which are connected to the hands and ears of the detainee.

Azerbaijan has signed the Convention on non-use of torture, received status of the invited guest to the European council. "The republic and world publicity should be informed that Azerbaijan does not fulfill its obligations, should know about presence of tortures, humiliations and repressive structures running counter even local legislation," the information notes.

Georgia

Georgia: Georgia, Abkhazia Likely To Extend Mandate on Peacekeepers

LD1208162796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 12 (Interfax) — There is every reason to believe that Georgia and its breakaway province of Abkhazia will reach a compromise on the extension of the mandate of the joint peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax on Monday.

The Russian diplomat said he was "almost 100 percent confident" of this.

"The Georgian and Abkhazian sides are displaying their readiness for a compromise, mutually acceptable agreements on the clarification and supplement of the peacekeepers' present mandate," the diplomat said.

The mandate of the joint peacekeeping forces, currently made up chiefly of Russian troops, expired on July 19.

Georgia has put forward a number of conditions regarding the extension of the peacekeepers' mandate. The Georgian side in particular demands that the peacekeepers be vested with police functions and that the area of their responsibility in Abkhazia be expanded.

Georgia and Abkhazia conducted consultations on conditions for the extension of the peacekeepers' mandate and the mandate's modification in Moscow in late July. The Georgian-Abkhazian talks were brokered by Russia.

The Georgian and Abkhazian delegations took time out to consult their leadership in the last days of July.

Ramaz Sichinava, Georgian envoy in Russia, does not discount the possibility that an agreement on the extension of the peacekeepers' mandate may be struck in the near future.

A decision on the peacekeepers' further presence in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict "is now contingent solely on the Abkhazian side," Sichinava told Interfax on Monday.

A decision will be made as soon as Abkhazia approves the Georgian proposals, he said.

Georgia, which earlier insisted on expanding the peacekeepers' responsibility to entire Abkhazia, has made a considerable concession while accepting to limit the peacekeepers' responsibility to the Gali district of Abkhazia, the Georgian diplomat said.

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Georgia: Shevardnadze Interviewed on Caucasus Issues

LD1208170096 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0506 GMT 12 Aug 96

[Regular interview with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani on 12 August in Tbilisi — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] Mr. President, the 9 August inauguration of the Russian president was the past week's most significant political event. You spoke extensively about this in an interview broadcast by Georgian television. The inauguration took place on 9 August, and 10 August was declared a day of mourning in Russia in connection with the events in Chechnya. I recalled this in the wake of a statement you made yesterday. The statement is somewhat of a summing up of all the theses and political statements you have aired in your interviews, from the rostrum of the United Nations or at various important forums since the beginning of warfare in Abkhazia. These statements were more often listened to and appreciated, may I say, outside the country rather than at home, I mean the immediate addressees of the statements.

Yet another point in connection with this statement. It stood out from other statements on the subject by showing more confidence and stronger nerve. If you will allow me, I would point out its part saying that Russia will never accommodate itself to Georgia's split and that Russia, as a member of the UN Security Council, will never go so far as to make Abkhazia its territory. And yet another point which was very significant and distinguishable: you said that any military success, which might be achieved by bloodshed and expatriation, would be equal to a defeat.

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. I am grateful to you for starting the interview with this issue. I would like to confirm that I myself am regarding yesterday's statement as significant. It was meant for the outside world as well as our society. I believe that there are many things in the statement which deserve attention from the viewpoint of our internal problems.

The main pathos and the principal objective of the statement is to contribute as far as I can to the implementation of the Kislovodsk agreements on establishing peace and stability in the region and to stepping up the Caucasus factor. A path of conflicts and the destruction of existing borders cannot be a guarantee of preserving the originality of the Caucasus peoples and their immortality.

Mankind is developing in a direction whereby all the countries of the world will participate in large-scale processes of integration in all spheres. Indeed, the Caucasus will never become second-rate, although it may not be at the very center of the process. Transparency will be the main characteristic feature of states and their borders, that is, lots of barriers which at present cause isolation to peoples and countries, will be removed.

The Caucasus — Georgia in the first instance — will find its deserved place within the space of world civilization and democracy after we manage to surmount the conflicts and settle the confused internal life. This can be said about all the peoples of the region. We all want the wounds of Chechnya and Russia to heal as soon as possible and all other conflicts in the Caucasus and all over the world to be settled shortly. We are actually on the verge of establishing peace and stability in the Caucasus, as yesterday's statement said. However, peace and stability will be established only if we manage not to miss the historic chance of stepping up the Caucasus factor, the foundation of which was laid in Kislovodsk. Our goal will become a reality if we make the most of the existing opportunities, the number of which is fairly high.

[Oniani] Mr. President, we used to start our interviews by assessing the economic developments of previous weeks. The past economic week was interesting and was characterized by stability. This was indicated by Shadman Valavi during his visit to Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] The past week was really interesting. It was indicative of the intensive work done by Georgia's economic structures in conjunction with an IMF mission headed by Shadman Valavi, who is very well known to all of us. The implementation of the program of financing structural reorganization in the country, which totals $246 million dollars over three years, was the objective of joint studies and discussions. It was emphasized at our meeting that Georgia's progress in implementing the presidential program of stabilization and structural reforms is fairly noticeable. [passage omitted] We have reached the point when the inflation rate has started to fall quite significantly, the national currency exchange rate is stable, the economy has improved, and relations with foreign creditors are being normalized. [passage omitted]

According to latest estimates, the inflation rate will not exceed 15-18 percent this year, although the annual program envisaged 20-25 percent. Commodity prices have gone down by 2.5 percent instead of rising. Meanwhile, the GDP is expected to increase by 10 percent this year, this being 2 percent higher than envisaged in our preliminary program. [passage omitted]

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In July, the contribution to the state budget revenue by the Customs Department was the highest of all and stood at almost 7 million lari, which is nearly 105 percent of the objective and exceeds almost 7.5-fold last year's seven-month figure. [passage omitted]

The Tax Inspectorate has contributed 150 million lari to the budget since the beginning of the year, thus almost trebling last year's corresponding figures. [passage omitted]

Export activity is also becoming more active. Samtrest [Georgian Wine Trust] has exported high quality Georgian wine to Moscow. It is estimated that some 5 million bottles of wine will be exported to Russia before the end of the year. This points to the revival of Georgia's traditional market. [passage omitted]

Similar trends can be observed in tea production. In accordance with the president's decree, the Aisi-85 company freighted 502 tonnes of tea to Turkmenistan in July. Another batch of 300 tonnes is ready for shipping. [passage omitted] A contract signed recently stipulates that 2,000 tonnes of tea should be exported to Uzbekistan before the end of the year. Uzbekistan is also ready to sign a contract on importing 50 million bottles of Borjomi mineral water from Georgia. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] Mr. President, before asking the next question, I would like to read out a quotation, rather a long one. While Georgia endures hardships, Jews are well-to-do, but not due to conscientious work or pure commerce, but owing to endless vampiric tricks. And more. The time is approaching when Jews will fail to find any place to flee to. The world, weary of Jews, will rise against them using anything that comes into its hands, be it a fork, a plate, a hammer. And more. If they continue the vampiric torture of Georgia, although it has been decided, I would like to warn Georgian Jews that if they continue to probe and depredate Georgia financially, which smothers our Georgia, processes are ripening in the Georgian society which will soon result in turmoil. And more. They cut off water and if they supply it, it is poisoned. They cut electricity, and when they supply it they taunt us. They do not let us work for they have led the people to wretchedness. The Jews will get severe punishment because nature remembers everything. Come to your senses, people. The Jew is the source of all filth.

I apologize before everyone who heard these words on the radio. This is not a quotation from an old fascist publication. This is a newspaper called Noe [Noah] — which incidentally, has been registered in Tbilisi by the Didube District Court. I know that the country's president should interfere in things like this as little as possible. However, it should be emphasized today, because as we speak so much about freedom of the press, and as the principal right of a human being to express his opinion should obviously be guaranteed, we are facing a publication which at least runs counter to our constitution. This is an article directed against a definite nation. I shall not elaborate on the traditionally wonderful relations between Georgians and Jews and on the attention which the State of Israel, which has its own problems to resolve, attaches to Georgia. This was also demonstrated during your visit to Israel. This is mere xenophobia, a mere wish to persecute a definite nation. It is dangerous. I do not know who is in charge, but unfortunately, newspapers like this are published on superb paper and circulated.

[Shevardnadze] I read it yesterday and I have heard it now, and I feel ashamed when I read or listen to things like this. I am ashamed that this has happened in our country, that this has been published in our country. For over 20 centuries, Georgians and Jews have been living together in the country chosen by the Virgin, tormented and enduring Georgia. For over 20 centuries we have been proud of the glorious traditions of fraternity between our ancient peoples. Is there any Georgian who does not know that the Jews have made a unique contribution to the development of mankind, to science, art, applied or general culture. It is impossible to visualize contemporary or future civilizations without this contribution.

Over this period of time, nothing like this publication has been read, heard, or said in Georgia. At least, I have not encountered anything like this in written form. Outrage developed in my heart because of this; I do not know how to describe it, aspersion or defamation, an unceremonious arrogant form and content. Generally speaking, slander, insult, and defamation, which were so characteristic of part of the previous parliament, have found their way into individual newspapers.

Not only do freedom of the individual and the protection of human rights constitute the cornerstone of democracy, but also the definition of rights within a democratic society. I have no doubt that parliament will see to it that the rights of the people and individuals, including representatives of the authorities, should be protected. It will certainly adopt an adequate law on the press, which will meet international standards. Otherwise, if we do not take proper care of this, those great principles upon which the new democratic system is being built will be trampled upon.

As far as the NOE newspaper's tittle-tattle and slander is concerned, I have been told that criminal proceedings have been instituted and that this fascist obscenity

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will not avoid punishment. I am confident about that. Georgia is distinguished for the development of a truly free press. I am familiar with the press of many countries, and I assure you that we can be proud of our achievement. Some of our newspapers can be taken as a model. Some. However, striving for sensations, lies, and often slander, and the temptation to use those is so strong that we might lose what is one of the major features of democracy, that is, a free press. We might lose it, not because it will be closed or purged, but because its reputation will decline and the people will turn their backs on it and we will lose our achievement.

Yet another conclusion. It seems that it is too early to stop mass activities directed toward uprooting provincial fascism. It has cost Georgia too much during the past few years. We have forgotten too quickly what has happened in the recent past. The article published in the newspaper goes even further than fascism and fascist ideology. The fight against provincial fascism has not finished yet. The fight should be stepped up and it will be stepped up, and will be conducted within the framework of the democratic institutions we have already created, and these institutions will be reinforced in order to strengthen the state. [passage omitted]

We do not need to idealize either our ancient past or especially the recent past. We have no grounds for that. There is a lot to be proud of and a lot to be ashamed of. The existence of provincial fascism in Georgia in the recent past is an established fact and let us keep it in mind. Therefore, uprooting it remains our immediate and most acute problem. We have no right to forget what has happened in Georgia. [passage omitted]

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Estonia

Estonia: Prime Minister Vahi Urges Better Relations With Russia

LD1208175896 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi today met Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov and handed over to him a letter of congratulations about the re-election of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

At the meeting, Vahi emphasized that the re-election of Boris Yeltsin as Russian president and the re-appointment of Chernomyrdin as prime minister would guarantee the continuing of Russia's reform policy, normal relations with neighboring states, and also closer cooperation with Western states, the government press service told Estonian radio. Ambassador Trofimov thanked Vahi and said that Russia did not back off from the policy of reforms.

Vahi and Trofimov agreed that Estonian-Russian relations were not bad but many issues were in need of speedy solutions. The meeting also discussed an Estonian-Russian border agreement, issues of citizenship and residence permits, and possibilities to set up a favorable trade regime.

Latvia

Latvia: European Affairs Minister Views Russia's Role in Baltic Region

WS0908082096 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 8 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Aug 08, BNS — The broadening of cooperation between Russia and the European Union countries may be helpful in reducing its anxiety of NATO enlargement in the future.

Latvian European Affairs Minister Alexander Kirsteins made the comment Wednesday in view of statements by Swedish prime minister Goran Persson that Russia should be involved in the settlement of Baltic security issues.

In Kirsteins' words, the question is not only military security guarantees to the Baltic states but also the setting up of a common stable Baltic Sea region.

Russia is a Baltic Sea country and as such it is naturally engaged in the cooperation of the region's countries.

With the EU expanding to the Baltic region, Russia could step up relations with other Baltic Sea countries as a cooperation partner of the trading bloc.

Its partner relations with the EU expanded, Russia would be less afraid of the enlargement of NATO, Kirsteins said.

Kirsteins described the opportunity as "a fairly good outcome" and predicted that the Baltic may become the most stable region in the Europe because there are no serious contradictions between its countries.

"The problem is that the Baltic is a boundary between richer and poorer countries," he noted underscoring the economic gap between its countries.

Kirsteins is also Latvia's acting foreign minister during the vacation of Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs.

Lithuania

Lithuania: Parliament Rejects President's Proposed Election Changes

LD1208164096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1450 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Aug 12 (Interfax) — The parliament in Vilnius on Monday sent back to a reconcilation commission new amendments to the election law providing for lowering barriers for parties from 5 percent to 4 percent and party coalitions from 7 percent to 5 percent.

The amendments were proposed by President Algirdas Brazauskas, a parliamentary spokesman told Interfax.

General elections are due on October 20.

The amendments are intended to increase the chances of smaller parties to get into parliament.

Lithuania: Official Comments on Amber Hope-96 Military Exercises

LD1108122496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, August 11 (Interfax) — Amber Hope-96 exercises began at Rukla army test site in Lithuania Sunday.

A senior official from the Lithuanian Defense Ministry Rimantas Klepacius told Interfax the exercises involved 200 men, 40 from Poland and Denmark in addition to Lithuanians.

According to the official, the main purpose is to train formations for international peace-keeping operations and improve their interaction.

The exercises that will end on August 18 are held for the second year and belong to the individual program of the country's partnership with NATO for 1996.

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